Champions League focus | Andy Robertson | Shanks on film | Lovren & Grujic | New Anfield Superstore

LIVERPOOL FC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine liverpoolfc.com

OX



Why he's thrilled to join Jürgen's mighty Reds

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BETVICTOR

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ISSUE 62 OCTOBER 2017

It's one hundred and twenty-five years to the month that LFC played its first ever matches – let's celebrate with goals and dreams of European glory!

LIVERPOOL

The lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening at home and abroad

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current stars, the stats that matter plus blasts from the past

CLUB

Reaching out to communities at home and abroad, plus Anfield updates and the latest awesome official merchandise



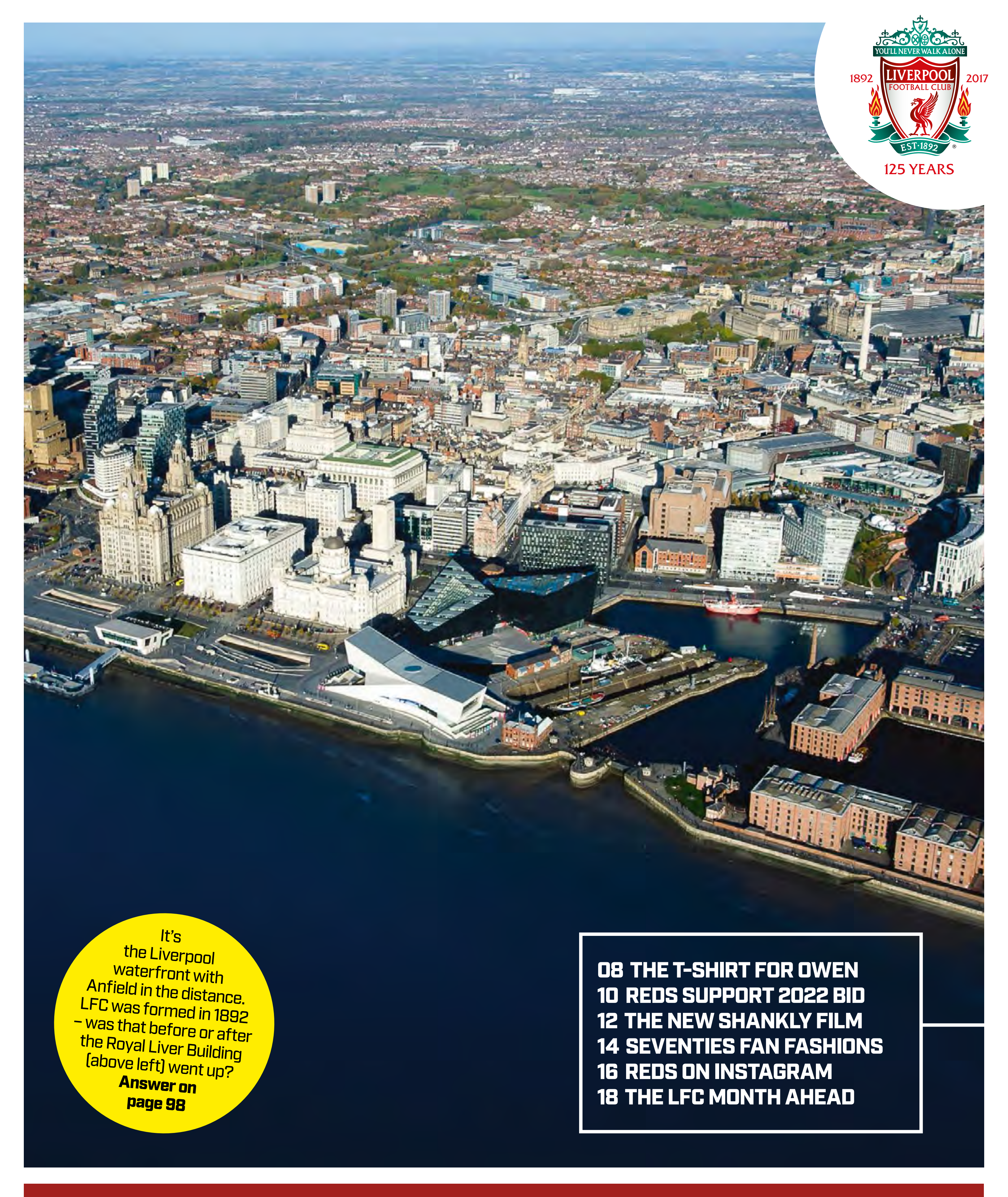
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KOP THAT The eagle-eyed at Anfield may have noticed a few subtle changes to the Spion Kop this season, with a further 470 seats added at high level to the world-famous stand – taking its capacity to 12,870 – as the club improves provision for disabled supporters. The Kop's two upper corners



have duly been expanded while 'relevant structural additions' have been extended and clad in materials to match the existing stand. Elsewhere in the ground the number of wheelchair bays for supporters has been increased from 195 to more than 250, while Anfield's 54,000-capacity remains in place.



It's the Liverpool waterfront with Anfield in the distance. LFC was formed in 1892 – was that before or after the Royal Liver Building (above left) went up? **Answer on page 98**

Shanks at the cinema and Anfield's role in the city's big sporting bid

LIVERPOOL

A TRIBUTE TO A BOY WHO WENT ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY SUPPORTING LIVERPOOL

How Jordan Henderson flagged up a very special Kop banner in his recent programme notes



Those special t-shirts in the dressing-room



Everyone connected with Liverpool FC has been touched by the story of Owen McVeigh, the young Liverpool fan who died in December 2015.

There is a commemorative flag on the Kop, and Owen's dad Mark has set up a foundation in his name to help enrich the lives of local children suffering with cancer by providing them and their families with money-can't-buy experiences.

A special t-shirt has been on sale and just recently LFC sold an exclusive Red edition, priced £10, at the club's three Liverpool stores for a limited time only, with all profits going to the Owen McVeigh Foundation.

Prior to the home game with Arsenal the Reds warmed up in the same t-shirts, and captain Jordan Henderson used his matchday programme notes to explain why...

"I always make a point when I go onto the pitch of trying to take it all in because when the game starts you focus on the match itself – more often than not everything else gets blocked out," revealed the skipper.

"But what you can see, in those moments just before kick-off, is just as significant as what you can hear. All the lads talk about it, I can tell you.

"The flags that are flown on the Kop are an incredible sight and there is one in particular that always catches my eye, partly because it is so moving and partly because it signifies what it means to come to Anfield and be part of something special.

"The banner is usually in the bottom right-hand corner of the Kop [from a Kopite perspective] and it features a dad holding his son's hand and carries the words 'It's off to the match we go'.



"The image itself is incredibly eye-catching and even more so because it is on a white background in a sea of red, but the meaning behind the banner is why it means so much. I believe the flag is

waved by the lads from Spion Kop 1906, who do so much to make the atmosphere as special as it can be, and it is a tribute to Owen McVeigh, a young Liverpool fan who tragically died from leukaemia at the age of 11.

"Being a son and also now a parent, a banner like that is always going to pull at the heart-strings because I can look back and think of myself holding my dad's hand and also picture myself as the dad, which is something that a lot of people coming to Anfield will be able to identify with.

"That it is a tribute to a boy who went all around the country supporting Liverpool makes it even more special and I can say without hesitation that all of the players know what the banner stands for and who it represents.

"That is why four of the lads – Dominic Solanke, Ben Woodburn, Andrew Robertson and Alberto Moreno – showed their support for the Owen McVeigh Foundation this week by being pictured wearing a t-shirt in Owen's honour.

"The t-shirt is on sale at Liverpool's official club stores with all of the proceeds going to the foundation which does so much to help children with cancer.

"With it being such a good cause that is close to all of our hearts, I would urge everyone to support the campaign in any way they can.

"As is the case on European nights, seeing my team-mates wearing the t-shirts reminded me of how important it is that all of us, players and supporters, work together as much as we possibly can and pull together when it matters most.

"When we do that, not only is Anfield a special place but anything is possible on and off the pitch..."











Owen's banner to the far left on the Kop

2022 vision

City's Commonwealth Games bid gets the backing of LFC and one of its greatest-ever players


Local athletes at Anfield

In the club's 125th anniversary year Liverpool FC is also proud to back the city's bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games – with Anfield, as an existing world-class venue, set to be used for ceremonies and the rugby tournament.

During the opening home game of the season, against Crystal Palace in August, local athletes were introduced at half-time, while Steven Gerrard is among the sports stars throwing their weight behind the bid including Jamie Carragher, Robbie Fowler, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, Tony Bellew, Steve Parry and Beth Tweddle.

"Liverpool is a city with a rich sporting heritage with its two football teams, boxing stars and global sporting events such as the Grand National and the Open being hosted on Merseyside," says Steven.

"As a Scouser it would be fantastic to have another global event like the Commonwealth Games in Liverpool and would help showcase to the world what a great city Liverpool is."

Club chief executive Peter Moore



Steven's Under-18s show their support

adds: "While we are famous for being a great footballing city, our sporting prowess goes much wider. The city of Liverpool is built on determination to succeed, unfaltering ambition and, most importantly, an incredible sense of community."

And finally from Liverpool 2022 bid chair Brian Barwick: "To have both Steven and Liverpool Football Club so firmly behind the bid is a further indication of just how determined the city is to win the right to host the Games."

Get behind the bid and follow on **Twitter @LiverpoolCG22**.

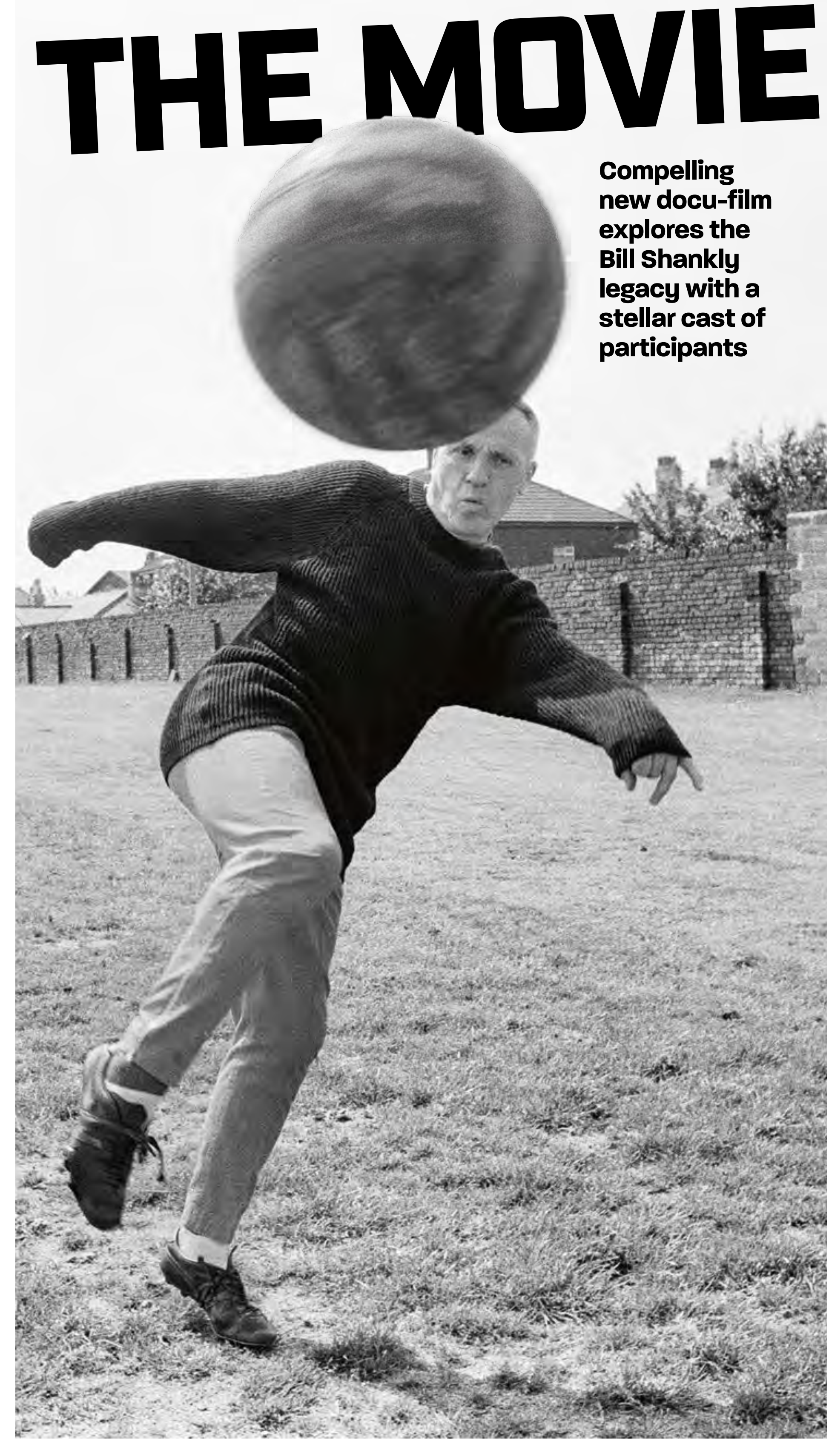


XXII COMMONWEALTH GAMES
CANDIDATE CITY



SHANKS THE MOVIE

Compelling new docu-film explores the Bill Shankly legacy with a stellar cast of participants



We had David Peace's monumental novel *Red Or Dead* four years ago, and now there's a fabulous new film about the one and only Bill Shankly.

Shankly: Nature's Fire has its premiere at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Sunday 29 October 2017 before a cinematic release. Commissioned by BBC Scotland, it takes the form of a biopic which also looks at the city, the club and its supporters now – and how Bill came to leave such an incredible legacy.

The film's title comes from a line by Robert Burns, who was Bill's favourite poet: *Gie me ae spark o' Nature's fire, That's a' the learning I desire.*

Director Mike Todd says it "reflects everything about Shankly's natural enthusiasm" and helps to explain why the great man's legend transcends generations.

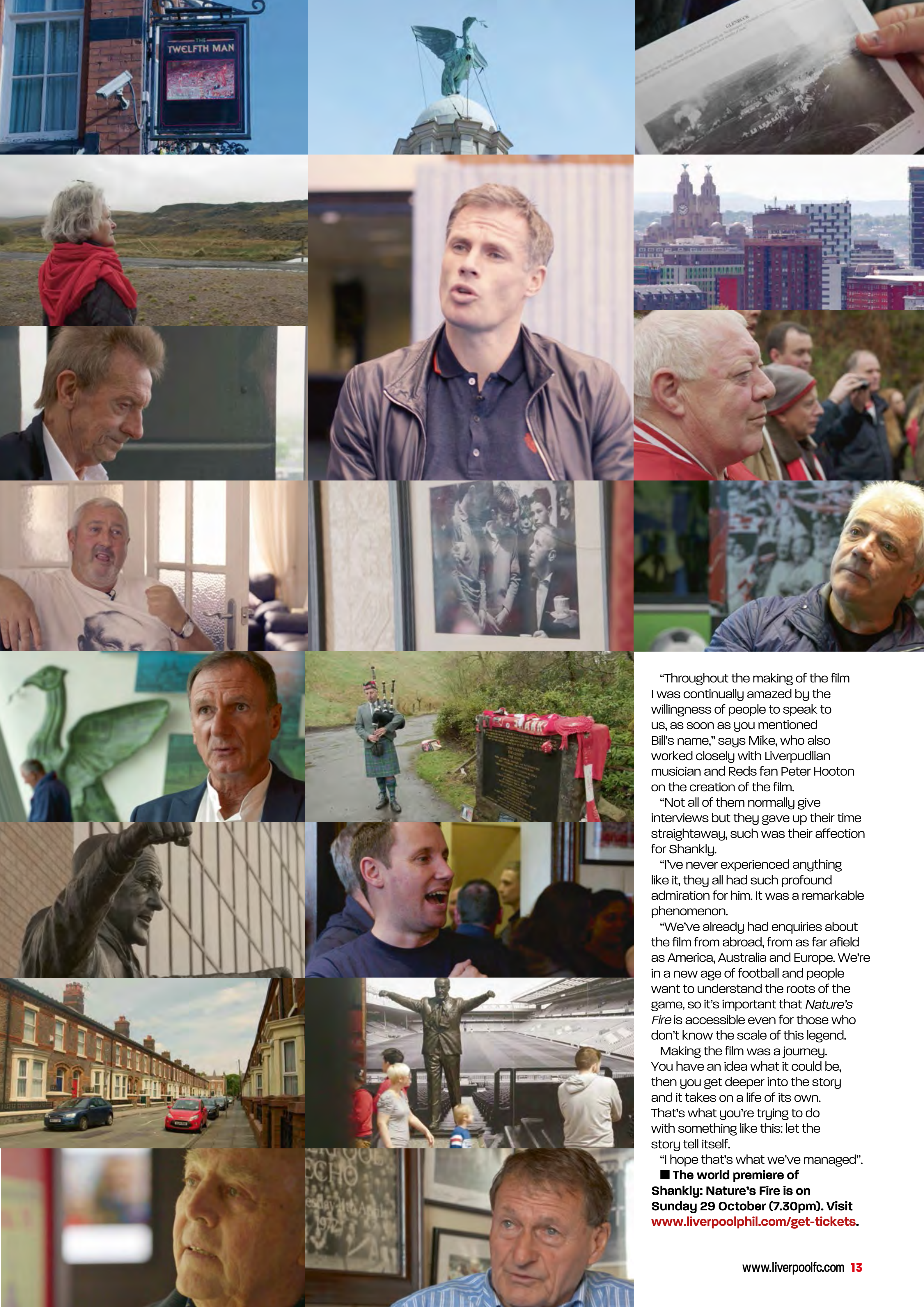
"Bill Shankly represents the soul of what a football club is," he adds, "and I'm hoping this film helps viewers – and not just fans – understand the soul of British football too.

"The film explores what Bill Shankly symbolised through his upbringing in Glenbuck at the same time as those two other great Scottish managers, Jock Stein and Matt Busby. Of the three it's Bill whose relationship with the people of Liverpool makes it, for me, football's greatest story.

BILL SHANKLY REPRESENTS THE SOUL OF WHAT A FOOTBALL CLUB IS AND INDEED A WHOLE CITY

"For him, football represented the passion of a whole city."

Two years in the making, the project finished in May this year with an impressive array of contributors: ex-players like Ian St John, Denis Law, Roger Hunt, Kevin Keegan and Steven Gerrard, plus sports writer Hugh McIlvanney and author Irvine Welsh, as well as family members and fans.



"Throughout the making of the film I was continually amazed by the willingness of people to speak to us, as soon as you mentioned Bill's name," says Mike, who also worked closely with Liverpudlian musician and Reds fan Peter Hooton on the creation of the film.

"Not all of them normally give interviews but they gave up their time straightaway, such was their affection for Shankly.

"I've never experienced anything like it, they all had such profound admiration for him. It was a remarkable phenomenon.

"We've already had enquiries about the film from abroad, from as far afield as America, Australia and Europe. We're in a new age of football and people want to understand the roots of the game, so it's important that *Nature's Fire* is accessible even for those who don't know the scale of this legend.

Making the film was a journey. You have an idea what it could be, then you get deeper into the story and it takes on a life of its own. That's what you're trying to do with something like this: let the story tell itself.

"I hope that's what we've managed".

■ **The world premiere of Shankly: Nature's Fire is on Sunday 29 October (7.30pm). Visit www.liverpoolphil.com/get-tickets.**



DRESSED TO THRILL!

Denim jackets and white overalls... The lengths fans went to show their devotion in the 70s

Among the more fantastical curios in the possession of The Liverpool FC Story museum is a new addition: a denim waistcoat belonging to a fan called Karl Marinas and covered with LFC patches.

"It dates back to the 1970s," writes Karl, "and as it was just gathering dust in my attic I wondered if the club museum would be interested in having it." Now there's every chance the jacket will be on display next to other fan memorabilia in the future.

Talking of which, who remembers those stupendous LFC-themed boiler-suits, also now cared-for by the museum, which were created by Reds supporters Ray Buck and Arthur Milton back in the same era?

A few years ago Ray told the matchday programme: "I worked at [electrical lighting company] Thorn Colour Tubes in Skelmersdale and we were issued with these overalls about every six months. Mysteriously I lost about 15 pairs of them just before the 1974 FA Cup final, about the same time that I had a mysterious illness too.

"I spent hours and hours painting the overalls and making hats to go with them. We wore them for the final, but before the game we took them down to see Shanks at Melwood. He stopped training and lined the players up and they all signed mine.

"The hats [long since lost] were quite an engineering feat. Inside each one was a false bottom which you could open to get out a plastic bag to protect the hats when it rained.

"One of them even had butties in it!"





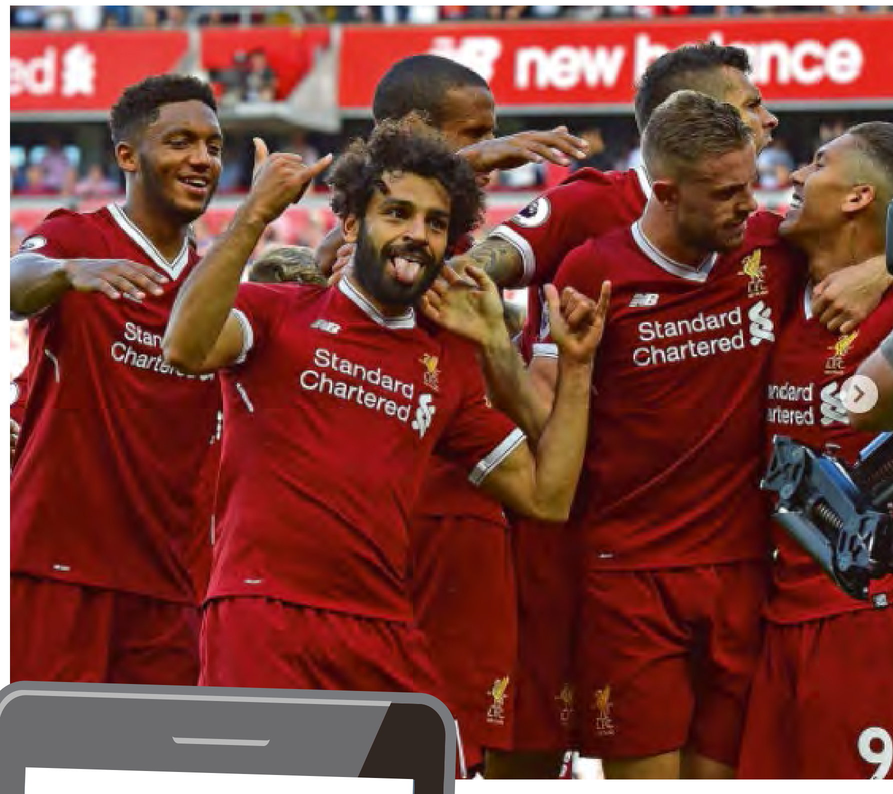
REDS ON INSTAGRAM

The best recent posts as the Mighty Reds launch into 2017/18



@22mignolet22 We deperately wanted this! @liverpoolfc where we belong: group stage of the #Championsleague #welldeserved #greatnight #YNWA #LFC 🏆⚽🔴





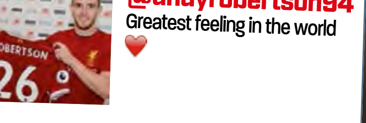
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@theanfieldwrap The 'Kenny Dalglish Stand' 👑👏 #LFC





@gembon23 Tough couple of games away in France against top opposition but great learning experiences for the team ⚽🔴

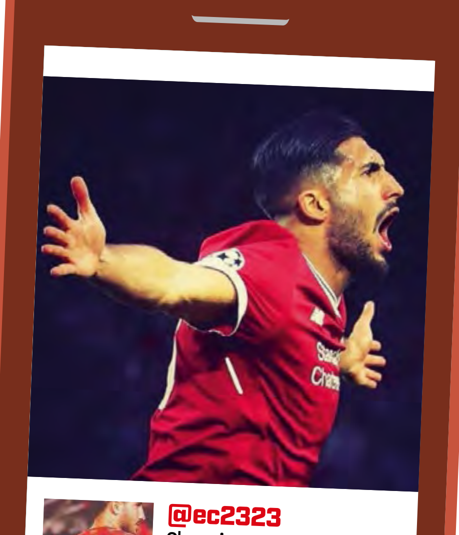






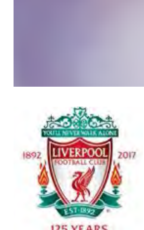
@gwijnaldum A place i call home. Thank you for the support i love you supporters 🔴🔴 #liverpoolfc #youneverwalkalone

@amplfc Getting behind the Owen McVeigh Foundation, show your support by purchasing your t-shirt here: store.liverpoolfc.com/lfc-mens-owen-mcveigh-foundation-tee #OwenMcVeighFoundation





@ec2323 Champions League, here we come! What a night at Anfield! Thankyou for the fantastic support! #championsleague #liverpool #ynwa #EC23



@liverpoolfc Liverpool FC have reached an agreement with RB Leipzig for the future transfer of Naby Keita. Full story at liverpoolfc.com



@paddypb23 Smart casual 😂 #KatsuraGoldCourse #Japan #BoysTrip #PaddyOnTour





@trentarnold98 😃👍



@jhenderson Brilliant night at Anfield! Back where we belong 🙌🙌🔥👏 #championsleague

WHAT'S



ON: SEPT



The Reds are taking the Kremlyn Road

SEVILLE TO SPARTAK

Following the highs of Liverpool's pulsating performance against Hoffenheim in the play-off round, the UEFA Champions League campaign begins in earnest when Spanish side Sevilla visit Anfield on Wednesday 13 September.

The clubs have only met once before and the Reds will be seeking to make amends after the Europa League final in May 2016.

A fortnight later it's the long trip to the Russian capital for a Matchday Two encounter with Spartak Moscow.

Way back in 1992/93 the Reds lost to Spartak in the European Cup Winners' Cup third round, but in the 2002/03 Champions League first group stage Liverpool won 5-0 at home and 3-1 away.

In-between all this European action – and there's more about the draw elsewhere in this issue – it's Burnley at home in the Premier League (Sat 16 Sept) and the small matter of a Premier League/Carabao Cup double-header away to Leicester City in the space of four days (Tues 19 and Sat 23 Sept).

Liverpool Ladies, meanwhile, return to action with two tasty fixtures in the FA Women's Super League. First up is a derby date with Everton at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes (Sun 24 Sept, 4pm). Then Scott Rogers' side play their first 'home' game of the campaign when Reading FC Women – likely to include former Reds Fara Williams and Mandy van den Berg – are the visitors to Widnes (Friday 29 Sept 7pm). Hold on tight!

WHAT'S ON: SEPT



North of England v Surrey, at Scarborough.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

ASSOCIATION.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 1.

Everton v Bolton Wanderers, at Goodison Park.
Liverpool v Rotherham Town, at Anfield.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3.

LEAGUE MATCHES.

Stoke v Derby County, at Stoke.
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Burnley, at Wolverhampton.
West Bromwich Albion v Aston Villa, at West Bromwich.
Everton v Notts Forest, at Everton.
Notts County v Sheffield Wednesday, at Nottingham.
Accrington v Sunderland, at Accrington.
Blackburn Rovers v Newton Heath, at Blackburn.

COMBINATION.

Nantwich v Everton, at Nantwich.

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Liverpool v Higher Walton, at Anfield.

LIVERPOOL JUNIOR LEAGUE.

Formby v Exchange, at Formby.
Miranda v Skelmersdale Albion, at Westminster-road.
Tuebrook Wanderers v Garston L and N-W, at Edge-lane.

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

Bolton Wanderers v Preston North End, at Bolton.
Newton Heath v Blackburn Rovers, at Newton Heath.
Darwen v Ardwick, at Darwen.
Tranmere Rovers v Royton, at Tranmere.

GENERAL MATCHES.

Bootle v Liverpool (2nd teams), at Hawthorne-road.
North-Western Loco—Club game at Rock Ferry.
Stanley v Wrexham, at Wrexham.
Warrington Rangers v Earlestown, at Warrington.

MONDAY, SEPT. 5.

Preston North End v Bolton Wanderers, at Preston.
Burnley v Aston Villa, at Burnley.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8.

Liverpool v Barrow, at Anfield.
St Cuthbert's v Liverpool 2nd, at Cherry-lane.

RUGBY.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3.

St Helens Recreation v Leeds Parish Church, at Leeds.
St Helens Recreation 2nd v Hindley Cross, at St Helens.

Printed by EDWARD RICHARD RUSSELL, and Published by ALEXANDER GRIGOR JEANS, ...

PARTY LIKE IT'S 125

The Burnley home game on Saturday 16 September marks an extra-special day at Anfield – it's also the nearest Premier League fixture to the 125th anniversary of Liverpool FC's first ever matches, against Rotherham Town and Higher Walton on Thursday 1 September and Saturday 3 September 1892 respectively.

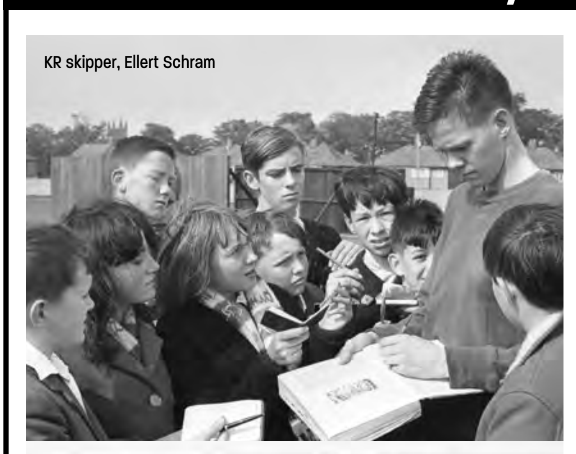
Those games took place in what was the Lancashire League, and the team wore blue-and-white halved shirts, long blue shorts and blue socks – an almost carbon-copy of the strip worn by former Anfield tenants Everton.

The first match ended 7-1 to Liverpool and the following day's *Liverpool Mercury* reported: "[Andrew] Hannah won the toss and elected to kick with the wind; and amidst applause Councillor John Houlding started the ball… As a team the eleven played well together and are sure to improve with more practice."

For further news on what promises to be an occasion to remember, check with **LFCTV** and **liverpoolfc.com**.



Anniversaries and birthdays



KR skipper, Ellert Schram

ÍÞRÓTTIR ÍÞRÓTTIR

RITSTJÓRI: HALLUR SÍMONARSON

Liverpool sigraði 6-1

KR-ingar léku sinn bezta leik í sumar. 2-1 í hálfleik. Gunnar Felixson skoraði mark KR á 23. mínútu.

Alf. Liverpool, 14. september.

It's 53 years since the Reds defeated KR Reykjavík in the first-ever European tie at Anfield, on Monday 14 September 1964, when the Kop booed their own players!

Five different players scored as Liverpool beat Icelandic amateurs KR Reykjavík 6-1, having already won the first leg in Iceland 5-0.

The honour of scoring Anfield's first European goal fell to Gerry Byrne who fired home from 35 yards. Bobby Graham marked his Liverpool debut with a goal, while Ian St John (2), Roger Hunt and Willie Stevenson also scored in an 11-1 aggregate victory.

The visitors were clearly outplayed but produced one of the biggest cheers of the night when Gunnar Felixson found a way past goalie Tommy Lawrence nine minutes before half-time. The Kop then playfully jeered Willie Stevenson, Ronnie Moran and Ian St John and shouted 'Off! Off! Off!' when skipper Ron Yeats brought down Felixson!

Alex Greenwood **24** on 7 Sept
Markus Babbel **45** on 8 Sept
David Thompson **40** on 12 Sept
Dominic Solanke **20** on 14 Sept
Karlheinz Riedle **52** on 16 Sept
John Aldridge **59** on 18 Sept
Kevin Lewis **77** on 19 Sept
Harry Kewell **39** on 22 Sept
John Arne Riise **37** on 24 Sept
Ronnie Whelan **56** on 25 Sept

28 years ago since the Reds beat Crystal Palace 9-0 on 12 September 1989.
36 years since Ian Rush scored his first LFC goal on 30 Sept 1981.
39 years since the 7-0 Anfield rout of Tottenham on 2 Sept 1978.
43 years since the club's record victory – 11-0 v Stromsgodset on 17 September 1974.

FIXTURES 2017/18

AUGUST		
Sat 12	Watford (A)	3-3
Tue 15	Hoffenheim (A) UCL	2-1
Sat 19	**Crystal Palace** (H)	1-0
Wed 23	**Hoffenheim** (H) UCL	4-2
Sun 27	**Arsenal** (H)	4-0
SEPTEMBER		
Sat 9	Manchester City (A)	
Wed 13	**Sevilla** (H) UCL	
Sat 16	**Burnley** (H)	
Tue 19	Leicester City (A) CC3	
Sat 23	Leicester City (A)	
Tue 26	Spartak Moscow (A) UCL	
OCTOBER		
Sun 1	Newcastle United (A)	
Sat 14	**Manchester United** (H)	
Tue 17	Maribor (A) UCL	
Sun 22	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	
Tue 24/Wed 25	Carabao Cup round 4	
Sat 28	**Huddersfield Town** (H)	
NOVEMBER		
Wed 1	**Maribor** (H) UCL	
Sat 4	West Ham United (A)	
Sat 18	**Southampton** (H)	
Tue 21	Sevilla (A) UCL	
Sat 25	**Chelsea** (H)	
Tue 28/Wed 29	Carabao Cup round 5	
Wed 29	Stoke City (A)	
DECEMBER		
Sat 2	Brighton (A)	
Wed 6	**Spartak Moscow** (H) UCL	
Sat 9	**Everton** (H)	
Wed 13	**West Brom** (H)	
Sat 16	AFC Bournemouth (A)	
Sat 23	Arsenal (A)	
Tues 26	**Swansea City** (H)	
Sat 30	**Leicester City** (H)	
JANUARY		
Mon 1	Burnley (A)	
Sat 6/Sun 7	FA Cup 3rd round (TBC)	
Tue 9/Wed 10	Carabao Cup s-f 1st leg	
Sat 13	**Manchester City** (H)	
Sat 20	Swansea City (A)	
Tue 23/Wed 24	Carabao Cup s-f 2nd leg	
Sat 27/Sun 28	FA Cup 4th round (TBC)	
Tue 30	Huddersfield Town (A)	
FEBRUARY		
Sat 3	**Tottenham** (H)	
Sat 10	Southampton (A)	
Tue 13/Wed 14	UCL last 16 1st leg	
Sat 17/Sun 18	FA Cup 5th round (TBC)	
Tue 20/Wed 21	UCL last 16 1st leg	
Sat 24	**West Ham United** (H)	
Sun 25	Carabao Cup final	
MARCH		
Sat 3	**Newcastle United** (H)	
Tue 6/Wed 7	UCL last 16 2nd leg	
Sat 10/Sun 11	FA Cup 6th round (TBC)	
Sat 10	Manchester United (A)	
Tue 13/Wed 14	UCL last 16 2nd leg	
Sat 17	**Watford** (H)	
Sat 31	Crystal Palace (A)	
APRIL		
Tue 3/Wed 4	UCL quarter-final 1st leg	
Sat 7	Everton (A)	
Tue 10/Wed 11	UCL quarter-final 2nd leg	
Sat 14	**AFC Bournemouth** (H)	
Sat 21	West Brom (A)	
Sat 21/Sun 22	FA Cup semi-final (TBC)	
Tue 24/Wed 25	UCL semi-final 1st leg	
Sat 28	**Stoke City** (H)	
MAY		
Tue 1/Wed 2	UCL semi-final 2nd leg	
Sat 5	Chelsea (A)	
Sun 13	**Brighton** (H)	
Sat 19	FA Cup final (TBC)	
Sat 26	UCL final (Kiev)	

*UCL = UEFA Champions League



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Mohamed Salah was our Standard Chartered player of the month for August – how many goals did he score for the Reds in that 31-day period? **Answer on page 98**

Awesome action from Anfield plus Steven Gerrard's Academy mission

FOOTBALL



OX IN THE BOX

Alex arrives at Anfield to the delight of his new manager and the skipper



England ace Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain became Liverpool's fourth and final signing of the summer when he penned a long-term deal just ahead of the 31 August deadline.

The versatile former Arsenal man will bolster Jürgen Klopp's options and the Reds boss is "really, really happy" to land the 24-year-old. "Since the last game [versus the Gunners at Anfield] I have been waiting and hoping we could make this transfer – and when I got the news he was ours it was fantastic.

"He may still be young but he has a lot of experience in the Premier League, Champions League and for his country. Already he is a very, very good player and I think he has the mentality and desire to get even better – and that excites me.

"This is someone making a tough decision to leave one great club and come to another great club and I think he had many options, so to get him means I'm delighted. He didn't make an easy decision but I think he has made a great one to go on this journey with this squad of talented boys and our great supporters.

"I welcome him to the Liverpool family."

Reds captain Jordan Henderson believes Anfield is the perfect place for his England colleague to take his game to the next level: "[Klopp] is a fantastic manager and I think he will help Alex a lot. He will help him

develop as a player and hopefully you will see more good things from him."

The Ox was with England for the World Cup qualifying wins against Malta and Slovakia as the transfer was completed, but he said: "I'm delighted to have signed for Liverpool and a big thank-you to everyone at the FA that has made this possible using the facilities [for his medical]. I can't wait to get to Melwood."

Meanwhile the Reds have also reached an agreement with RB Leipzig for the future transfer of Naby Keita. A club-record deal will see the 22-year-old midfielder move to Anfield on 1 July 2018.

Keita, a Guinea international, joined Leipzig from Red Bull Salzburg in 2016 and scored eight goals in 31 Bundesliga games last term to help them to a second-place finish. He expressed his joy that "an agreement has been reached which will allow me to join Liverpool Football Club next summer, when I will become part of a project that excites me greatly.

ALEX HAS THE MENTALITY AND DESIRE TO GET EVEN BETTER – AND THAT EXCITES ME

"My commitment to RBL remains absolute for the remainder of my time at the club. I have given my all every time I have worn the shirt – that will be the case until the final whistle, in my final appearance. Having my future resolved means I can now focus on helping RBL achieve great things this season. Until I join my new club next summer I will remain an interested supporter from a distance."

There were also several outgoing player movements on transfer-deadline day. Mamadou Sakho made a permanent switch to Crystal Palace having spent the second half of last season on loan with the Eagles, while Academy defender Sam Hart joined Blackburn Rovers on a two-year deal.

Divock Origi heads up a number of players making loan-switches. The Belgian international has joined Bundesliga side Wolfsburg for the remainder of the campaign. Also going out on season-long loans are: Ryan Kent (SC Freiburg), Allan Rodrigues de Souza (Apollon Limasol) and Academy striker Toni Gomes (Forest Green Rovers). Young midfielder Jordan Williams has moved to League One side Rochdale until January.



The new boy signs in

First day at Melwood after international duty

BRILLIANT BEN ON WORLD STAGE

Woodburn wondergoal thrills Welsh fans in World Cup qualifier

Ben Woodburn, who became LFC's youngest goalscorer last season, marked his senior international debut by scoring the winning goal as Wales beat Austria 1-0 in their World Cup qualifier on 2 September.

The 17-year-old became his country's second-youngest all-time goalscorer just five minutes after emerging from the bench at the Millennium Stadium.

Ben's unstoppable right-footed drive from the edge of the box ensured Chris Coleman's side remain in the mix for qualification, and just days later it was his assist that broke the deadlock for Hal Robson-Kanu to score against Moldova.

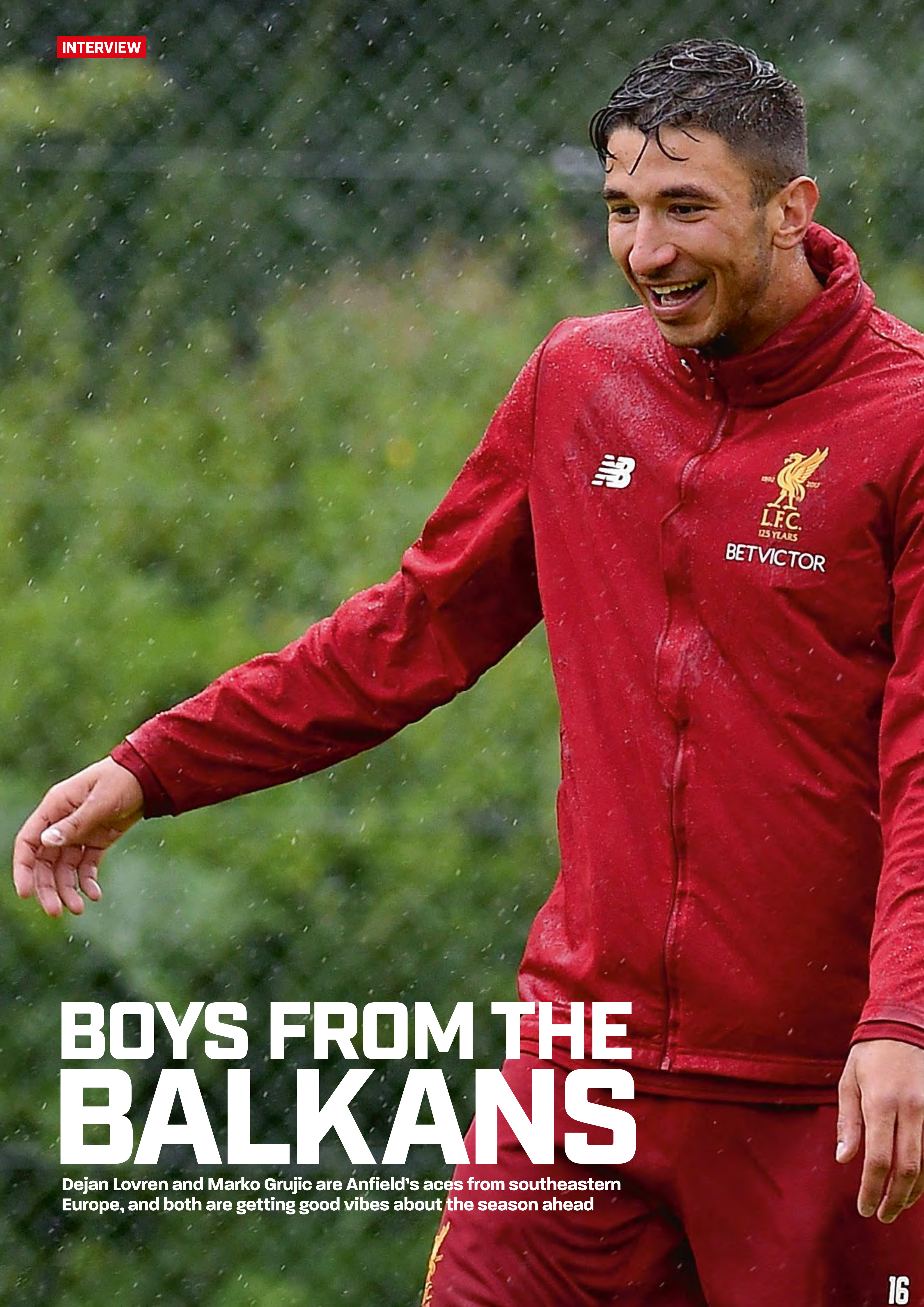
Reflecting on his goal v Austria, the Reds youngster told Sky Sports: "The ball came out of the air and I just tried to shoot as quickly as I could. It's a great feeling, I couldn't ask for more from the fans. I won't sleep tonight!"

Meanwhile Joe Gomez kicked off his stint as the new captain of England Under-21s with a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands on 1 September.

The 20-year-old took the armband for the first time as the Young Lions earned a point away in their bid to qualify for the UEFA Under-21s Euros next summer.

Joe was then named man of the match as England U21s defeated Latvia 3-0 three days later.





BOYS FROM THE BALKANS

Dejan Lovren and Marko Grujic are Anfield's aces from southeastern Europe, and both are getting good vibes about the season ahead



The Reds made an impressive start to the season – how much of that is down to all the hard work done in pre-season?
MARKO: We prepared for a tough year and in our training sessions we tried to keep that intensity throughout. We had those two trips in pre-season, to Hong Kong and Germany, and they were both important because the games take you to a different level in terms of match-fitness. We worked hard and couldn't wait for the start of the season, which I think showed.

THERE COULD BE MORE CHANCES FOR YOUNGER PLAYERS LIKE ME THIS SEASON – IT'S EXCITING

So you're both feeling good physically this season?
DEJAN: Yes. What was important when we came back from the summer was that we took our bodies to the maximum, and those games against Bayern Munich and Atletico, plus Crystal Palace and Leicester in Hong Kong, were a really good test for us.

We know that in difficult situations, in difficult games, with the tempo up and down, we will be ready to compete with anyone and maybe we'll be one of the fittest teams in the Premier League, like we showed last year. Us and Tottenham, I think we had the best records for running.


Marko scores the goal that never was v Bayern

Every player wants to play all the time, but with the sheer volume and regularity of fixtures you have to be realistic, don't you?
MARKO: Exactly, and that's why each and every player is very important in our squad. At the turn of the year, when the schedule is so busy, we need to use everyone. That's the time when everything that we did in pre-season when it was so tough, in the early games, will hold us in good stead.

That might be the big difference between teams with the same qualities – those who had more intense training sessions might have the edge later in the year. It could be crucial.

Is there a point in the season when it really starts to feel tough?

Travelling light with the Reds first-team

DEJAN: December and January are obviously busier but like Marko says that's when we need to use all of our players all of the time, to see who's available at that important moment to play.

It's quite tough in seven or eight days to play three games, for ninety minutes, against different kinds of opponents. You can play against Man City, high-tempo and pressing, then the next game could be Man United, another big rival. But again I think we are well-prepared and we know what we can expect.

Marko, after a spell out with hamstring then tendon injuries you came back towards the end of last season – what would it mean to get more game-time in 2017/18?

MARKO: For young players like me, it would be amazing. We've got the Champions League and I'm looking forward again to the two domestic competitions, the FA Cup and Carabao Cup. Hopefully it will mean more chances to play because we'll have a lot of matches so more opportunities to show what we can do for the team. We all can't wait.

Dejan, not so long ago there were a few Croats playing in the Premier League...

DEJAN: But I think I'm the only one left [Everton signed Nikola Vlasic just after this interview] Before there were five or six, now I have no one! [Laughs].

You played against Hoffenheim's Andrej Kramaric recently and he spoke very highly of you to the LFC programme for the play-off...

DEJAN: We were in the same U21 and senior Croatia teams. He was over here for a short time at Leicester City but didn't have that many chances to play, so he had another good opportunity with Hoffenheim and he took it. Clearly he had a good season with them, finishing so high and qualifying for the Champions League play-offs, and I think they can be proud of that. They are a good team that we respected from the first moment in the play-off, and I wish them well in the Europa League.

MARKO: I don't really know any other Serbian players over here. There's Nemanja Matic; I'm not so close to him but I know him from the national team.

Being a Premier League footballer, is there one thing you wish more people understood?

DEJAN: Well, people pay good money to watch football these days, they pay for their tickets and they're entitled to say what they think and to expect players to perform well. If you don't play well there should be questions asked.

At the same time we are all human. A player might makes many sacrifices for his career and then if he doesn't win in a final, for example, you might say he could do better. But you never know what the story might be behind that.

Every player should make sure they are in the best possible shape to be at their very best every time they play. There aren't many players who can perform in every game, score three goals per game. That's Messi and Ronaldo. I don't know anyone else who can do that. Sometimes people don't understand why other players can't



do it all the time too. But I think this is normal and you should accept it.
MARKO: I remember when I was a supporter as well, I went to the stadium to cheer on my team and shout for the players. And yes, sometimes shout at them if they didn't play well. It's the same now and to be honest I agree with that.

When it's a big game, what's it like running out onto the pitch at Anfield?

MARKO: Amazing. They've changed the grass this season, a new pitch. It's a great feeling to run out at Anfield. Everyone here loves it.

Dejan, you've said that Marko is a player who just needs time – what can he achieve here?

DEJAN: I've told him he has the capacity of a player like Yaya Toure. He has big legs, he's massive, and he can win every challenge in the air. He's a great football player who can really have amazing technique. It just takes a first season to understand how the Premier League is. He's had a couple of games now and I think he will definitely have more chances this year and more games. He's ready.

Marko, that great 'goal' you scored against Bayern in pre-season, did you know straightaway it had been disallowed?

MARKO: No! [Laughs as Lovren smiles]. These guys told me, five minutes later! I didn't realise, to be honest. Afterwards I saw some photos with the scoreboard still saying 3-0 before they changed it. At first after I scored I didn't know and then Dej told me. And then I saw they re-started the action from the five-yard box, not the centre-circle, and I realised they hadn't given it!

Late last season you came close to a first Anfield goal with a header against Southampton that their goalkeeper somehow saved...

MARKO: That's right, I remember that moment very well. I'm looking forward to that first goal at Anfield, hopefully it will come soon.

This chestnut about Liverpool playing better against the top sides in the table and less so against the others – what's your take on it?

DEJAN: We've shown many times in the past that we can play against both types of teams, the stronger ones and the less stronger. It's all about concentration, the defending 'mood' I would say when we don't have the ball.



MARKO IS A STRONG FOOTBALLER WITH AMAZING TECHNIQUE – HE'S READY

Against Manchester United or Chelsea maybe you are a little more on fire. It's the truth, but ultimately you are a professional and you need to do your work to the same level in every single game. You flick the switch in your head so every game is like a game against Chelsea, for example.

We've just shown our qualities again against Arsenal, after doing so twice last season. I'm confident that we can achieve at least as much this year – we just we need to step up a bit against the so-called smaller teams too.
MARKO: You could argue that the games against the smaller teams are more decisive in the long-run than the ones against the [eventual] champions and the derbies and the other big games.

We are the same team against one then the other, but last season we'd play against the likes of Man City and win and the next week we'd struggle against another team. It's the same players, though. Maybe, like Dej says, it's just concentration.

How competitive is the Premier League in 2017/18?

MARKO: The smaller teams invest a lot more money and sign good players and that's why the Premier League is so competitive and so difficult – and so interesting. Everyone can make the top four, everyone can win the title.
DEJAN: Last year was a really tough year for everyone, nobody knew how it would finish but we think we deserved to be in the top four.

It's getting harder every season in the Premier League. You can never beat somebody six-zero, seven-zero, like in La Liga when Real Madrid play Alaves. Here, you're fighting for your lives in every game, against the top team, against the bottom team.

But we are ready. Hopefully it will be a busy season at home and in Europe and we'll need to use all of our players all of the time. We'll need some luck and if we can steer clear of too many injuries we can do well. Let's see how it goes.


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THE ANFIELD NOISE

Golden goals and an awesome atmosphere at home to Arsenal on a sunny Sunday afternoon



Anfield. Sunday 27 August 2017. There's something in the air on this surprisingly warm last Bank Holiday weekend of the year as skipper Jordan Henderson leads the team into the stadium and the Reds warm up ahead of the game against Arsenal in special t-shirts supporting the Owen McVeigh Foundation. Once again Anfield is a sea of red-and-white before kick-off, and there's a debut too for the new Spidercam suspended above the lush green playing surface. Will it capture anything interesting today?


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FIRMINO 9



One-nil (17 mins). From a Joe Gomez cross, Roberto Firmino heads powerfully into the ground and past Gunners keeper Petr Cech. It's Bobby's fourth goal against Arsenal in the last three Premier League meetings at Anfield and they've all come at this end of the ground! Later in the half he'll also set up Sadio Mane to fire home, meaning Firmino will have scored and assisted in a game on eight occasions since his Premier League debut in August 2015; only Costa and Lukaku can match that.



Two-nil (40 mins). Arsenal are attacking the Kop but Joe Gomez cuts out a pass in the Reds penalty area and within seconds the ball has travelled from Gini Wijnaldum to Emre Can to Roberto Firmino to Sadio Mane, flying down the left wing. Sadio cuts inside the full-back and lashes an unstoppable shot past Cech and into the inside side-netting. He's now only the third player to score in the first three Premier League games of a season for Liverpool, after Robbie Fowler in season 1994/95 and Daniel Sturridge in 2013/14.


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Standard Chartered



Three-nil (57 mins). Shades of Luis Suarez against Everton in 2014 as Mohamed Salah intercepts the ball in his own half and races down to the other end of the pitch before stroking past Cech in front of a roaring Kop. The goal, Salah's third already in a Red shirt, comes only 12 seconds after Arsenal have taken a corner. It means Liverpool's front-three are all now on the scoresheet with half-an-hour still to play. Not all games will go this smoothly for the Reds this season, but this is, simply, poetry in motion.



Four-nil (77 mins). The move of the match? Arguably. It's another end-to-ender, this time Firmino combining with Gomez and onto Can, who turns and surges past his marker in centre-midfield before laying off to Salah on the left of the penalty area. Then it's 'simply' a pinpoint cross for substitute Daniel Sturridge to head in at the far post. But while the net billows again in a complete attacking performance, it also means a fourth clean-sheet in a row for Liverpool at Anfield in the Prem for the first time since September 2013.



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15
GOMEZ
M.SALAH
11



The stats don't make great reading for the visitors: not a shot on target, a heaviest loss since Boxing Day 2015, and an eighth Premier League defeat by a margin of at least four goals – four of which have come at Anfield. The Gunners will come again, for sure, but today is all about the Reds. "We need to learn we can do things like this every three or four days," says Jürgen Klopp. "We wanted to be spot-on from the first second. The performance was perfect and the result was the result of the performance."

Analysing the group dynamics ahead of Liverpool FC's latest European adventure

LOOK OF

Liverpool FC discovered the identity of their UEFA Champions League group-stage opponents when the draw was made in Monaco less than 24 hours after the 6-3 aggregate win over Hoffenheim in the play-off round.

Jürgen Klopp's men were pitched against Sevilla, who also qualified via the play-off round, Slovenian PvaLiga champions Maribor and Russian Premier League title-holders Spartak Moscow.

The Reds boss called the draw "exciting – to be part of it is obviously really special. We watched with a few of the lads together.

"There are groups with Barcelona, Bayern, Juventus and Real Madrid, and not to get them is of course more good than bad. But I don't think that after this long way we should think about the opponents. We have to go and prepare.

"With Sevilla there is an open bill, I would say. But we all know how good they are in European competition.



Juventus keeper Buffon is beaten by Real's Casemiro in last season's Cardiff final

THE DRAW

Moscow is a long trip. And Maribor, in this moment you don't know a lot about them; a lot of people would underestimate them, we will not.

"So we don't think about the opponent, we just think about the competition. We'll analyse and take everything seriously – we want to go as far as possible."



Matchday 1 (13 Sept): **Liverpool** v Sevilla; Maribor v Spartak Moscow
Matchday 2 (26 Sept): Spartak Moscow v **Liverpool**; Sevilla v Maribor
Matchday 3 (17 Oct): Spartak Moscow v Sevilla; Maribor v **Liverpool**
Matchday 4 (1 Nov): Sevilla v Spartak Moscow; **Liverpool** v Maribor
Matchday 5 (21 Nov): Spartak Moscow v Maribor; Sevilla v **Liverpool**
Matchday 6 (6 Dec): **Liverpool** v Spartak Moscow; Maribor v Sevilla



Group A

Benfica: back-to-back winners of the tournament in 1961 and 1962, the Eagles won the Portuguese Primera Liga last season.
Manchester United: the three-times winners qualified after winning the UEFA Europa League last season.

Basel: quarter-finalists in 1973/74, the reigning Swiss champions will reach 100 games in Europe's top tournament on Matchday 2.
CSKA Moscow: runners-up in the Russian Premier League last season, they beat Sporting in the UEFA Cup final of 2005.

Group B

Bayern Munich: Carlo Ancelotti's club are German champs for a fifth successive season and have five European Cups.
Paris St-Germain: the big-spending French club want to make their mark and boast the world's most expensive player in Neymar.

Anderlecht: the current Belgian champions enjoyed their best European Cup days in the 1980s, reaching the semis in 82 and 86.
Celtic: coached of course by Brendan Rodgers now, they enjoyed their finest hour in 1967 when they defeated Inter Milan 2-1 in the final.

Group C

Chelsea: the English champions will be aiming to prove themselves again at Europe's top table having won the competition in 2012.
Atletico Madrid: three-time runners-up, Atletico finished third in La Liga and Diego Simeone's side will be a tough team to beat.

AS Roma: beaten finalists in 1984 of course. Helped by Mo Salah's goals, they were runners-up in Serie A last season.
Qarabag: Azerbaijan's title winners will be competing in the Champions League for the fourth time in their history.

Group D

Juventus: winners of the trophy in 1985 and 1996, the 'Old Lady' were champions of Italy for the 33rd time last season.
Barcelona: the Catalans won the tournament for the fifth time in 2015. They finished as runners-up in La Liga last season.

Olympiacos: the Greek champions enjoyed their best season in 1998/99 when they finished as quarter-finalists.
Sporting Lisbon: Third last season, they were last domestic champions in 2002. Won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1964.

Group E

Spartak Moscow: the Russian Premier League champions reached the semi-finals in season 1990/91 before losing to Marseille.
Sevilla: five times winners of the Europa League since 2005, they qualified after overcoming Istanbul BB 4-3 on aggregate in the play-offs.

Liverpool: five times European champions, only Real Madrid and AC Milan have won it more often. This is LFC's tenth campaign in the modern UEFA Champions League.
Maribor: the Slovenians are the only team from their country to have competed in the group stages.

Group F

Shakhtar Donetsk: Europa League winners in 2009, the Ukrainians reached the last eight of the tournament in 2011.
Man City: third in the Premier League last season, they reached the round of 16 last season and the semi-finals in 2015/16.

Napoli: UEFA Cup winners in 1989, they finished third in Serie A last season and have twice reached the last 16 of the Champions League.
Feyenoord: the Eredivisie title-holders were European Cup winners in 1970, when they defeated Celtic after extra-time.

Group G

Monaco: the French champions have been beaten semi-finalists on three occasions and finalists in 2004 when they lost 3-0 to Porto.
Porto: European champions in 1987 and 2004, the Dragons finished runners-up in last season's Portuguese Primera Liga.

Besiktas: quarter-finalists in 1986/87, they won the Super Lig title for the 15th time last season.
RB Leipzig: the surprise package of the Bundesliga last season when they were runners-up. The first team from the former East Germany to qualify for Europe in 16 years.

Group H

Real Madrid: the reigning champions, *Los Blancos* lifted the trophy for the 12th time when they beat Juve in Cardiff back in June.
Borussia Dortmund: third in the Bundesliga, *Der BVB* lifted the trophy in 1997 and were runners-up under Jürgen Klopp in 2013.

Tottenham: twice UEFA Cup winners, they'll be hoping to make an impression after bowing out in the group stages last season.
APOEL: the Cypriot champions are competing in the group stages for the fourth time. Shock quarter-finalists in 2011/12.





WEE BIT OF

We make Andy Robertson the 45th Scottish international to play for Liverpool – and he's absolutely



CLASS

delighted to be following a long line of illustrious names

As Liverpool FC celebrates 125 years it seems fitting to have a Scot in the squad. The club's early successes were built around a recruitment policy north of the border for what became the legendary 'Team of the Macs'.

Glasgow-born Andy Robertson joined from Hull City in the summer. Now 23, he's come a long way since being rejected by Celtic as a teenager for being too small and timid. That crushing blow helped inspire him to prove his doubters wrong and, now capped 17 times by his country, his route to Anfield has come via calling-points at Queen's Park, Dundee United and Hull City.

"Football has always been in the family," he says. "Me, my mum, my dad and my brother went to the Celtic games since I was really young. My brother and I had season-tickets throughout our lives but obviously I gave mine up when I started playing every Saturday and couldn't go to the games anymore.

"Football has always been a part of my life and my family are big supporters of the game. That's just the way it's been from the start."

Andy grew up in Clarkston, a 20-minute train ride to central Glasgow. "We were closer to Hampden than Parkhead. Celtic Park was probably 15 minutes away, so it wasn't too far, but I wasn't brought up right next to the stadium or anything like that. It was the other side of Glasgow for Celtic, but that club was always part of my family."

Therefore it was naturally the stuff of dreams when Andy was asked to train with Celtic while he was still at primary school. "When I was seven or eight I was told Celtic wanted me which was a dream-come-true. I was going to watch Celtic on a regular basis and then I managed to pull on the kit at such an early age. The experiences I got from that were very good for me."

While the Glasgow giants' eventual decision to let him go was heart-breaking at the time, he's phlegmatic as he reflects on it now. "Everyone knows that it didn't quite work out but at that time that was their decision and it was one that I look back on now and think was probably the right one at the time.

"Looking back, it probably did help shape me into the person and player that I am now. Whenever you get rejected as such, it always makes you even more determined and it did that. It probably took me another year or so to get over it. I was going through a lot of changes physically too and took another spurt in growth and when that happens your bones are a wee bit sorer."

At the age of 18 he joined Glasgow club Queen's Park where he was able to put his career back on track under manager Gardner Speirs.

"It probably took me a year to settle in and I didn't really hit the ground running, but then in the second season I found my feet and I don't think I've looked back from that point on. It's only really been up since then."

Another aspect of life at Queen's Park helped form Andy's character. He explains: "Queen's Park are famous for being an amateur club and, as such, they don't pay wages. Everyone has to earn a living outwith of the football and I was no different.

MY DAD DIDN'T LIKE LIVERPOOL BECAUSE THEY STOLE KENNY DALGLISH AWAY FROM CELTIC!

"My main aim was always to become a professional footballer, but I also needed money in my pocket. So I got a couple of jobs to buy things and be able to do stuff at the weekends with my friends. That's the way life was back then and it has probably grounded me and maybe helps me appreciate everything that comes to me just now a wee bit more.

"I was working in the corporate ticket-office at Hampden Park. It was more for the private boxes and lounges. I just helped to make sure that everything ran smoothly.

"There was a guy who was heavily involved with Queen's Park, Andy McGlennan, who ran all that side of things and I was just his runaround boy! He was a great help to me and somebody who has helped me massively along this journey."

After an impressive year in the first team at the club nicknamed The Spiders, he took the next step up the ladder with Scottish Premiership club Dundee United. He'd stay only 12 months at Tannadice before moving south of the border, but boss Jackie McNamara was a big influence.





A long stretch at Melwood


ROBERTSON
26



Sign of the times

"Jackie was a massive help for me. He had played the position [full-back] at the highest level for many years so I could learn off him and we got on really well straightaway.

"He could see potential in me and I could see myself learning off him. That season he helped me into a player that I couldn't be at Queen's Park. At Dundee United I was training every day and he was coaching me every day. Being able to play football so regularly helped me enormously. In some ways it was unfortunate that I was at the club for only a year, but it was certainly a year for the good.

"When I signed, there was nothing made of it. Coming from Queen's Park, most people probably expected me to be in the youths for a couple of years; I think the manager probably did too when I first went in. They had another left-back on trial at the same time so it looked like they were going to sign two left-backs. But they ended up not signing him because I had got off to a flyer in pre-season and the manager told me that.

"He said to me: 'I'm not signing this lad because I believe in you'.

"Straightaway I had that confidence from the manager. He started me in the first game of the season and I don't think I looked back. Obviously there are no real big signings in Scotland as there are down here and I went in under the radar. I managed to do my work in pre-season and luckily impressed the manager. I don't think I missed a game that season."

It wasn't only McNamara who was impressed by Andy's form as the Tayside club finished fourth in the Scottish top flight and also reached

AS A KID YOU DREAM OF PLAYING FOR A CLUB OF THIS STATURE WITH A HUGE FANBASE

the Scottish Cup final. Having already been voted as the SPFL's young player of the month for September and November, he was crowned PFA Scotland young player of the year and named in the PFA Scotland team of the year.

By then, he was a full Scotland international, winning his first cap in a 1-0 friendly victory over Poland in Warsaw in March 2014. "Even from the January there was talk about clubs being interested down here in England, but at that point it was way too early to think about it and I didn't want to move," he recalls.

"I was happy at Dundee United and I wanted to keep playing for them. It got to the end of the season and my mind was still with Dundee United if I'm being honest. But then the Premier League comes calling and it makes you think. Hull were interested and I spoke to their manager, Steve Bruce, for about five or 10 minutes and realised he was a man that I wanted to work under. Happily, it proved the right decision.

"I was still young at that point, I was just 20 and still wasn't sure if I wanted to move that far away from family and friends. Plus I had only been playing professional football for a year. It was probably natural that there were a few doubts along the lines of: was this too early for me? I was aware that I could fail and end up being back up the road.

"But Steve Bruce was a massive help and helped me in my game. He took me to the next level, helping me become a wee bit more defensively sound, and he put his faith in me as of the first game again. He was a huge help after I arrived and it definitely proved the right move for me."

His three seasons at Hull were an up-and-down affair with promotion to the Premier League via the play-offs in 2016 book-ended by relegations in both 2015 and 2017. Nonetheless his own development was continuing. Andy settled quickly with the Tigers and was voted as the club's player of the month in August 2014.

When he scored his first goal for Hull at Brentford in November 2015, it took his side to the top of the Championship on goal-difference. Although last season ultimately ended in disappointment, he couldn't help but think about his future when talk about a move to Anfield started to gather pace.

When he did put pen to paper, Liverpool Football Club finally found



redemption in the eyes of his father!

"My dad didn't like Liverpool for stealing Kenny Dalglish away from Celtic! Of course, he was Celtic's best player at that time. Kenny obviously came down here and did some amazing things and Liverpool were always one of the clubs that I've watched.

"As a wee kid you always dream of playing for a club of such stature with a strong, worldwide fanbase. When all the talk is going on, you almost don't want to quite believe it because you start dreaming of pulling on the jersey and things like that. Thankfully now that's become a reality."

So, as far as five-year plans go, Andy's story is right up there. On Saturday 18 August 2012 he was lining-up for Queen's Park in a Scottish Third Division fixture against Montrose in a game watched by 498 people. On Saturday 19 August 2017 he was playing for Liverpool: an eye-catching debut in the Premier League against Crystal Palace in front of 53,138.

Manager Jürgen Klopp admits to being captivated by Robertson's boy's-own tale. "For Andrew, this is another big step on what has been a quite incredible personal journey in a very short space of time," he's said. "I love his story; where he has come from professionally to reach this point.

"When you speak to him it is clear why he makes his progress. He has a burning love for playing football – he loves it. His attitude is absolutely outstanding. His talent and skills – also very, very good. He has experience of the Premier League and he has the mentality and quality to get even better."

The player himself feels settled at the club already, although he admits it took him a while to adjust to the demands of an intensive pre-season.

"In the first couple of weeks it was hard to get up to pace but I knew I would get there. I can see from the day I first came in to now that I have come on massively already and long may that continue."

As for the longstanding link between Liverpool FC and their clan of Scotsmen, he's happy to maintain the tradition. "A lot of people have spoken about those links. Even in recent times the Scottish players that have been here have been successful.

"You think of Kenny, Alan Hansen and Graeme Souness and, more recently, Gary McAllister. Players like that have all left their impression at this club. When you consider what King Kenny did, you know that if you can touch even a fraction of that, you will have done well in the fans' eyes.

"It's good to have the Scottish link to the club and it's one that I hope to continue for many years."

The Liverpool Scottish: most capped

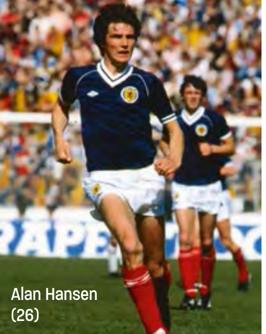

Kenny Dalglish (55)

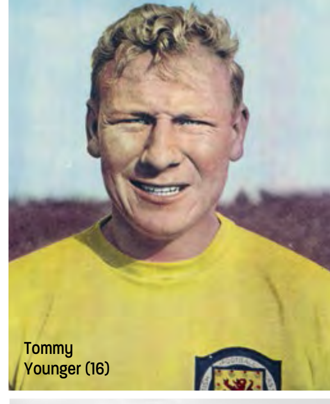

Billy Liddell (29)


Graaeme Souness (37)


Tommy Younger (16)


Steve Nicol (27)


Alan Hansen (26)

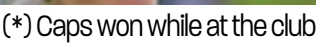

Ian St John (14)

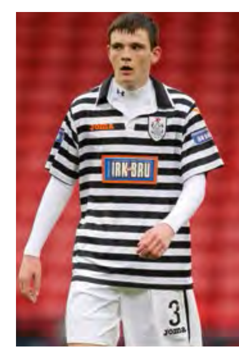

Gary Gillespie (13)


Alex Raisbeck (8)

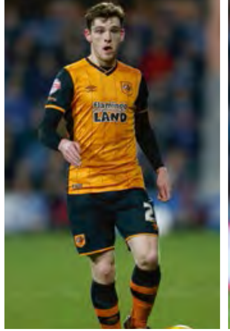



Charlie Adam (6)


(*) Caps won while at the club









ANDY'S ODYSSEY: 2012-13 Queen's Park; 2013-14 Dundee United; 2014-16 Hull City; 2014-present Scotland

Interview by William Hughes


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125 YEARS



Scouse power

Defender and local lad Jon Flanagan reckons fellow Scouser and Reds legend Steven Gerrard will bring the very best out of the Under-18s this season

There has never been as much interest in Liverpool FC's Under-18s side as there is this season.

At a club the size of Liverpool there is always intrigue about what's going on at the Academy. Supporters are keen to know if a future star has been unearthed and whether they'll soon be watching another Robbie Fowler, Jamie Carragher or Steven Gerrard.

Ironically, it's the fact that Gerrard is now manager of the U18s that has seen the spotlight turned to full beam. It's an inevitable development.

When you're a Scouser who has captained Liverpool Football Club more than any other man, the only player in the history of the game to have scored in the Champions League, UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League Cup finals, a former England skipper, the fifth leading goalscorer in LFC history and arguably the finest midfielder of all to grace the Anfield pitch, what you do next after your playing career has ended is always going to demand attention.

So when Steven was appointed as U18s boss this summer the football world not only sat up and took note of his first foot on the rung of the coaching ladder but made a mental note to follow his progress intently.

Jon Flanagan is among those keeping tabs on his old team-mate. The full-back, who at the age of 24 is remarkably now Liverpool's longest-serving player, having made his competitive debut in April 2011,

played in the same sides as Gerrard before he left for LA Galaxy in 2015.

Like Gerrard he also came through the ranks at Kirkby, progressing from the U18s when they were managed by Rodolfo Borrell (now assistant coach to Pep Guardiola at Man City) to the first team during Kenny Dalglish's second stint as manager.

After spending last season on loan at Burnley, Flanno is back in Jürgen Klopp's squad competing for a first-team place but is aware of events at the Academy and believes Gerrard is going to be hugely influential on the lads that he coaches.

"Everyone here knows how big he was for Liverpool so for young lads to be going to work with him and be coached by him...that's a dream.

"All the kids will look up to him and he's going to play a massive part in the future of this club. For your idol to be coaching you, you're only going to give more and he is only going to get the best out of you.

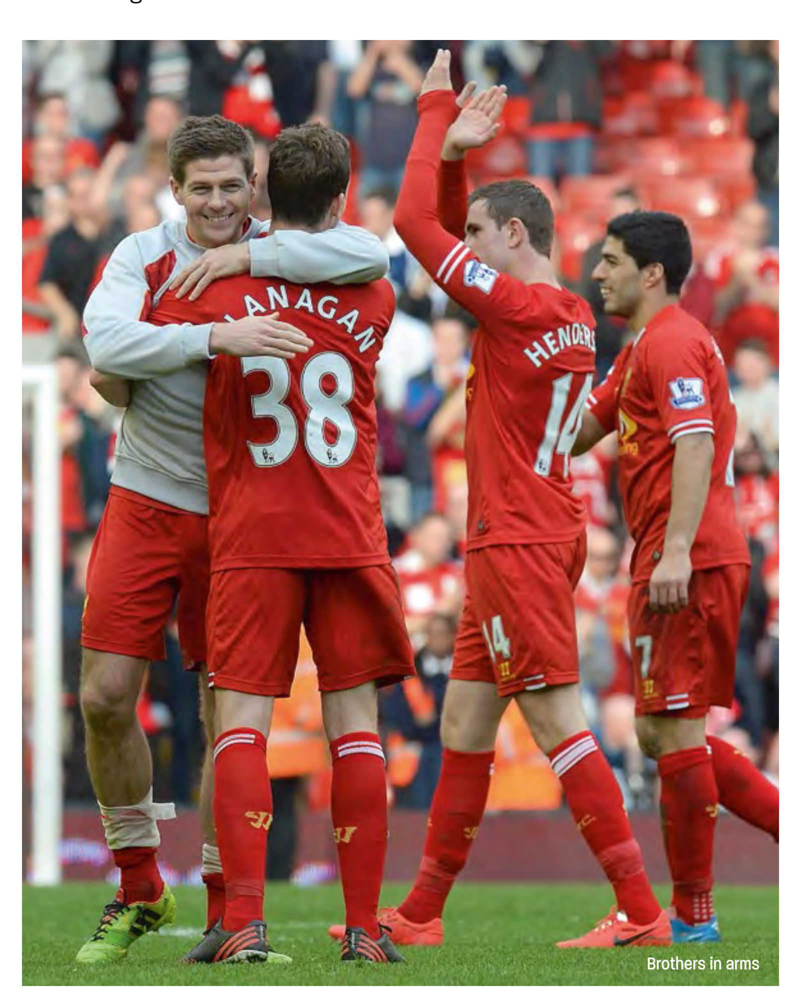


Steven at the Academy

"I'd have loved to have had him coaching me when I was 18, so I think the lads at the Academy now are very lucky to have him there, although we did have great coaches when I was at Kirkby. There are great coaches out there who weren't as good players as Stevie was, but I think he'll get the best out of the lads he's working with and the kids will enjoy working with him."

That we're even chatting about the U18s is indicative of the interest that Gerrard commands. Flanagan is well-aware of the media interest that there now is on a team of 16 and 17-year-olds – something that can cause added pressure – but he believes it is in their interests to learn to deal with it despite their young ages.

FOR THE YOUNGER LADS TO BE WORKING WITH HIM AND BE COACHED BY HIM, IT'S A DREAM


Brothers in arms

"During the past few years the U18s won't have been watched as often as they will be now because of Stevie being there. It puts them under the spotlight and that's a good thing.

"In football you've got to make the steps up. You can't crumble under pressure at U18s level because more people are watching you. You've got to get used to the attention, build on it and deal with the pressure so I think it will be a great year for them. They've all got to try to enjoy it and try to progress."

Proposals are in place to amalgamate the club's two training facilities with the first-team moving from their West Derby Melwood base to Kirkby ahead of the 2019/20 season, should planning approval be given. The ambitious project would result in Liverpool's first-team and Academy players all being based on the one site whereas currently there is a five-mile gap between the two complexes.

Does he think that merging the two sites is a good idea?

"Yeah, I think so. They've been talking about that for many years since I was younger and it will be

> **THE UNDER-18S SHOULD BUILD ON ANY EXTRA ATTENTION, ENJOY IT AND TRY TO PROGRESS**

more beneficial for the young lads to train on the same site as the first-team players. They'll be able to look across and see where they want to be. It will bring the club together.

"We'll all be as one whereas at the moment we're a bit separate and we don't really get to see the young lads play as often as maybe we should. The more together we all are, the more beneficial it will be for the club."

The conversation turns back towards Gerrard and I ask Flanno if he always felt the former Reds skipper would ultimately go into coaching. His response is that of a lad who is clearly still a die-hard Liverpool supporter.

"Stevie was always going to be involved in footie [when he finished playing]. He did a bit of punditry but he was doing his coaching badges while we were playing so I think he was always gearing up for coaching. Now he's got the Under-18s job. I think he'll do a great job and hopefully he'll be the Liverpool manager one day."

That's quite an ambition, but doesn't the old adage says great players don't make great managers? His response is immediate.

"Look at Zinedine Zidane at Real Madrid. He's won everything, even the Super Cup this season against Man United. Hopefully Stevie can be like that here."

And that is why there is so much spotlight on the Liverpool FC Academy. It's isn't just the progress of the Under-18s players that is being monitored now, but that of their manager.

Jon in first-team action



Flanno v Anzhi in November 2012

Flanno on the European dream

Five years ago, at the age of 19, Jon Flanagan made his European debut for Liverpool in a Europa League game away to Anzhi Makhachkala in Russia.

Brendan Rodgers' side lost 1-0, and it remains the only European game in which Jon has played – an unusual statistic for someone who's also won one England cap.

It means he could make his Champions League debut this season with six group games against Sevilla, Spartak Moscow and Maribor to look forward to, and the full-back believes being back among the big boys in Europe's premier competition will be the making of Liverpool's season.

"Beating Hoffenheim was massive. To get into the group stages of the Champions League is key to our season. Every Liverpool fan wants us to be in the Champions League, to get those big European nights at Anfield back, so those Hoffenheim games were huge.

"It was a great season last year, finishing fourth, and we all want to have a similar season – but to finish it a bit stronger and do well in Europe."

Words: Chris McLoughlin

"WE'RE EXCITED AND READY TO GO"

Ladies manager Scott Rogers previews the start of the new FA Women's Super League One season – kicking off with a Merseyside derby on Friday 22 September



HOW HAVE THE PREPARATIONS BEEN GOING?

They've gone well. It's been a bit higgledy-piggledy because the international players came back at different times depending on how their nations fared at the Euros. But we've got everyone back in now, so we're happy. The players are looking fit and sharp so we're looking like we're in a good place.

YOU PLAYED PRE-SEASON GAMES AGAINST TWO TOP TEAMS, LYON AND MONTPELLIER, IN THE TOULOUSE INTERNATIONAL LADIES CUP – HOW WAS THAT?

It was good because we've not been in the Champions League for a while now. To play the Champions League winners, Lyon, who have been arguably the best team in women's football for years and years, helped us to see the standard that they're at and that was helpful.

I know the result was extreme [0-6] but in large patches of the game we played really well, dominated possession and created chances. But ultimately we were punished for the mistakes that we made. You can maybe get away with those errors in the WSL, but at that level, boy did we get punished for them. Lyon and Montpellier were both just a week away from the start of their seasons, whereas we were three weeks away and I think that showed too. You could see that they were that little bit sharper but I was happy with how we played.

We always said that this pre-season wasn't really about results. In the last few pre-seasons we've had games where we've thrashed teams but it's not been quite what we wanted in terms of performances and having to step up a level.

The girls have had to work really hard and played two top teams in France before a behind-closed-doors game against Manchester City and then a match against Bristol City, so I would say that this is the best pre-season that I've done in terms of competitive games since being at Liverpool, not just as manager but as assistant too.

> "THE PLAYERS ARE LOOKING FIT AND SHARP. WE'RE IN A GOOD PLACE AND ARE READY TO GO"

HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE TRANSITION FROM THE SUMMER SEASON TO BEING MORE IN LINE WITH THE MEN'S SCHEDULE?

It's straightforward from our point-of-view. We got the Spring Series out of the way and once we came back in, pre-season started. When you work in football you probably lose track of what the actual day is. It's always game-day or game-day minus one,





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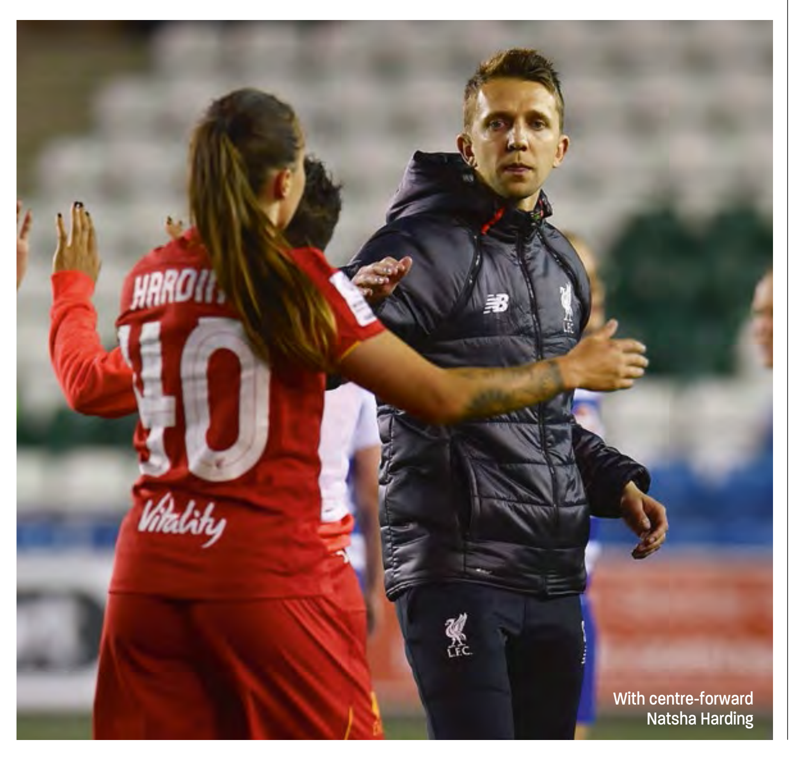


two, three or four, or plus one, two, three, and so on. To us as a staff, it's just a different time of year that the games are being played. We work on the same kind of structures. We're excited and ready to go.

IS IT NOW A CASE OF THE SQUAD BUILDING ON THEIR IMPRESSIVE SHOWING IN THE SPRING SERIES?

The Spring Series worked out really well for us. We were sat at the top of the league for a while and then towards the end we picked up some niggles and couldn't quite get over the line, but it put us in a good place.

We tried some things and we gave the kids an opportunity. We've done that throughout pre-season too as we've got some very talented young players at this club and I think we've got to keep giving them exposure at this level to see how far away they are. The spring season worked really well for us but it means nothing now. This is a new season that starts now and everybody's looking forward to it.



With centre-forward Natsha Harding

THERE'S THE SMALL MATTER OF A MERSEYSIDE DERBY TO START WITH...

I could have predicted that! I think it's a different Everton to the one we've played recently and probably during the five years that I've been here because they've spent a bit of money. Their manager Andy Spence has brought in six or seven players including some internationals.

With that, they are now saying to everyone that they want to compete at the top end of the table so I think it will be probably the toughest Merseyside derby we've faced for five years. But that's what people want around Liverpool. Andy's brought in some very talented players and together with the talented young players they also have, it means it will be a very, very tough opening game for us.

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW DEPARTURES, NOTABLY SHANICE VAN DE SANDEN JOINING LYON AND KATIE ZELEM HEADING TO JUVENTUS...

Lyon are the best team I've ever faced by some way and that shows when they dominate in Europe. When teams like that come in for players in England, even if you've got the power of a Manchester City, you lose Lucy Bronze [the former Liverpool defender has also joined the French champions this summer].

When Shanice came here, she wasn't on the radar of Lyon. We've had her for two years and now she's joined the best team in Europe. That's




Ex-Reds Lucy Bronze and Shanice van de Sanden are now team-mates at Lyon

not just our work, it's her hard work as well, but I think everybody that comes to this football club knows that my staff and I will work to develop them as footballers and that's the key.

We want to keep the group together as much as we can, but there's always going to be players coming out and players coming in - that's the nature of football. We also have a few bodies coming back with Amy Turner and Martha Harris returning from injury and Satara Murray back after being unavailable for the Spring Series.

If we can keep the core of the group together – which we believe we have – and maybe add one or two with some of the fantastic kids we have coming through, then we'll be in a good place this year. I think we'll be very competitive again and we're very excited about the season.

WITH SHANICE AND LUCY BRONZE AT LYON AND TONI DUGGAN JOINING BARCELONA FROM MANCHESTER CITY, DOES THAT SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE CONTINUING STRENGTH OF THE WSL?

We must remember that the WSL is still a very young league. We're behind the top European leagues in terms of buying into women's football, but I do think it's getting better.

Something that we've got to ensure is that we keep developing and bringing through our English players because that's the only way we can keep improving the league. We can't keep relying on bringing players in from abroad all the time.

We have a lot of good kids in this country at many different clubs and it's about making sure that they get chances and that's not stifled by too many international players, even though those internationals are good for the game too.

SOME CLUBS HAVE RECRUITED HEAVILY DURING THE CLOSE SEASON WHILE OTHERS HAVEN'T...

A few clubs have bigger resources than others, but I think the six or seven full-time teams in the league have recruited intelligently. It's been proven in the past that it doesn't matter how much you spend, if you coach players the right way and you're organised and difficult to beat, then you can win football matches.

There are a lot of talented teams and a lot of talented players in the league and that's why it's growing and it's exciting for the future.

DO YOU SET ANY TARGETS FOR THE SEASON?

Ever since I took the job I've always said that we only work one game at a time. The next game is always our target and we focus on that. You can get bogged down with predicting scores and results, but ultimately if you ask your staff and your players how many points do they want to pick up over the season, then they should be saying: maximum. If they're not, then there's a problem. Realistically that's not going to happen for any team, but you shouldn't be saying: well we're going to lose this game or that game, and trying to work out set targets.

We've not set crazy targets that are unachievable. You are only as good as your last game and if you win it, you move on and stay grounded; if you lose it, you don't get too disheartened and you're on to the next game. We'll see at the end of the season where we are because the table tells you everything. So our first focus is Everton, then we'll move on to Reading and so on.


Amy Turner is raring to go after injury

Fixtures 2017/18

September		
22	Everton (A)	7.45pm
29	**Reading (H)**	7pm
October		
8	Chelsea (A)	2pm
11	**Sheffield (H, CC)**	7pm
28	Sunderland (A)	6pm
November		
5	Durham (A, CC)	12pm
11	**Birmingham C (H)**	5.30pm
15	Aston Villa (H, CC)	7pm
December		
2	Sunderland (A, CC)	6pm
10	Arsenal (A)	2pm
16/17	Conti Cup q-f	TBC
January		
6	**Yeovil Town (H)**	5.30pm
13/14	Conti Cup s-f	TBC
27	**Bristol City (H)**	5.30pm
February		
4	FA Women's Cup 4	TBC
11	Man City (A)	2pm
17/18	FA Women's Cup 5	TBC
21	**Sunderland (H)**	7pm
March		
10/11	Continental Cup final	TBC
17/18	FA Women's Cup 6	TBC
25	Birmingham C (A)	2pm
28	**Arsenal (H)**	7pm
31	Yeovil Town (A)	2pm
April		
14/15	FA Women's Cup s-f	TBC
18	Bristol City (A)	7pm
21	**Man City (H)**	5.30pm
27	**Everton (H)**	7pm
May		
5/6	FA Women's Cup final	TBC
13	Reading (A)	2pm
20	**Chelsea (H)**	12pm

Interview by William Hughes

THE KOP OUT

Paul Stewart could and should have been great for Liverpool, but his dream move became a nightmare as this exclusive book extract reveals...





Pre-season laughs with John Barnes

Paul Stewart's Liverpool FC career was completely forgettable. He was a flop, a waste of money, and he readily admits it.

Signed by Graeme Souness for £2.3million in July 1992, he'd scored 37 goals from midfield over four years for Tottenham – two of them against Liverpool and one in the 1991 FA Cup final victory against Nottingham Forest at Wembley – so the 27-year-old's Anfield arrival was hotly anticipated by Kopites.

Unfortunately he turned out to be a huge disappointment. The Manchester-born midfielder was slow, sluggish, gave the appearance of a man who wasn't giving his all and managed just three goals in 42 games. The first of those came in Liverpool's first-ever Premier League game at Anfield versus Sheffield United, having scored the final 'old' Football League goal at White Hart Lane for Spurs against Everton four months earlier.

Dumped in the reserves then packed off on loan to Crystal Palace, Wolves, Burnley and Sunderland before eventually staying on Wearside via a free transfer in March 1996, his name is only really mentioned by Liverpool supporters when discussing the club's less impressive signings.

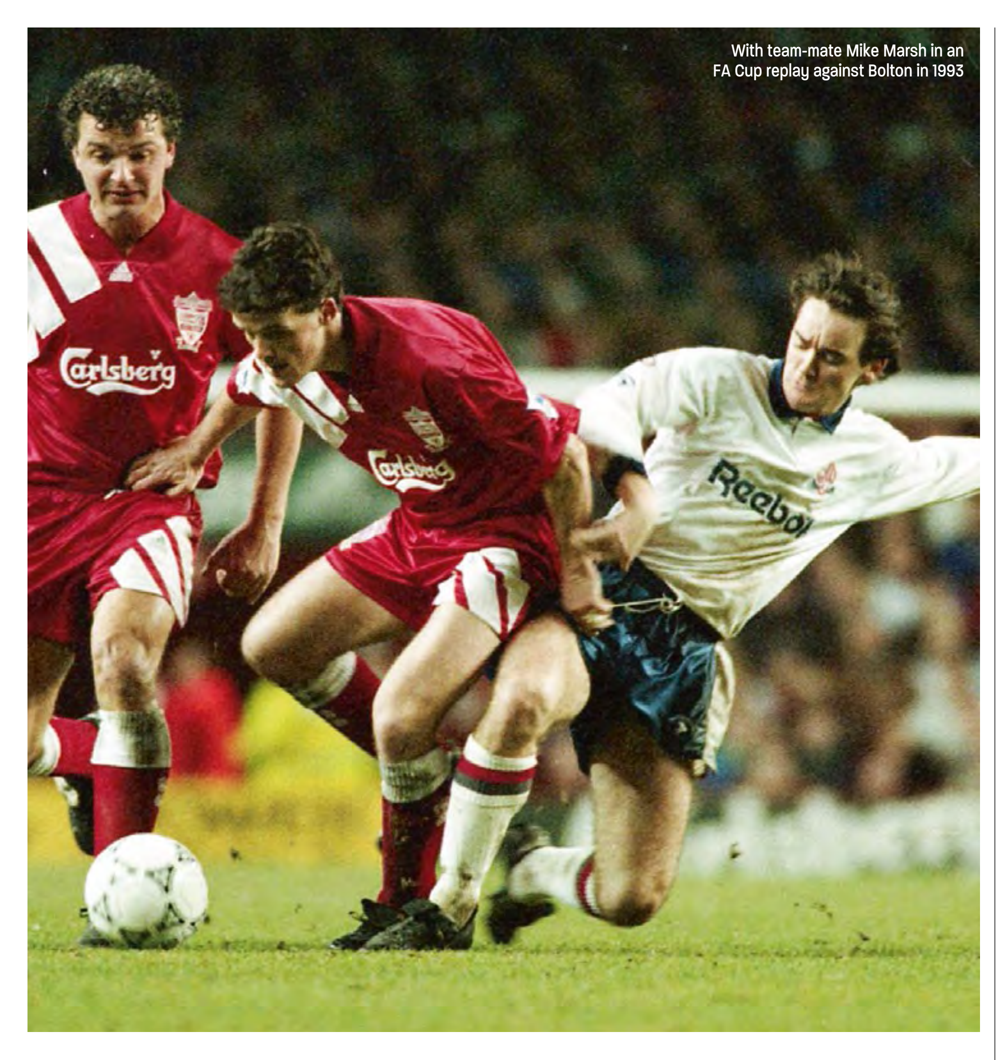
What nobody knew at the time, though, was why he was so poor. Now, thanks to his recently-published autobiography – *Paul Stewart: Damaged* – there is some context.

Paul was abused as a youngster by a junior football coach and it's testament to his strength of character that he got as far in the game as he did. Having gone public recently about his past, he's also launched a charity called SAVE with fellow victims and former players David White, Ian Ackley and Derek Bell in an effort to help others who went through the same thing.

It's a brutally honest account. Shocking revelations aside, rarely do you get an ex-Liverpool player admitting in print how things didn't work out for him at LFC, and that makes the 52-year-old's book a different kind of read. But it has its lighter moments, too.

Some of the antics he got up to with Paul Gascoigne during their Spurs days will raise a laugh, but it's life at Liverpool we're interested in here and Paul has given us permission to publish an extract that charts his Anfield days.

In it he reveals how he clashed with manager Souness, his team-mates' nicknames, and what happened when his room-mate turned up at an away game in his wife's trousers...



With team-mate Mike Marsh in an FA Cup replay against Bolton in 1993

"There is no one but myself to blame for my lack of success at Liverpool. It remains the biggest regret of my footballing career.

"After watching the great Liverpool teams in the past, I knew all about their history when I signed for them. Liverpool were clearly very keen as they forked out nearly two-and-a-half million pounds.

"At 27, they should have been getting a man at the peak of his powers. An England international with a proven track record; a midfielder with a boundless work-rate and an eye for goals. At current prices, the transfer value would be in the region of £19 million.

"It is safe to say they did not get what they had paid for; I sold them short. I sold myself short. In those first two years I was sluggish and injury-prone due to my off-the-pitch antics...

"Graeme Souness played me as a striker on a few occasions to try and re-ignite my career at Liverpool, but it just did not happen for me, for whatever reason. I was seen as their second striker to Rushie for a time, after Dean Saunders was sold to Aston Villa in that first season. I managed just one league goal, against Sheffield United on my dream Anfield debut.

IT IS SAFE TO SAY LFC DID NOT GET WHAT THEY HAD PAID FOR; I SOLD THEM AND MYSELF SHORT

"I loved the roar of the Kop as it went in, the noise as you lined up in the tunnel with that famous This is Anfield sign right in front of you. You could see fear in the eyes of the opposition.

"Liverpool had been in their pomp in the late 80s, dominating the league, winning trophies. But that debut goal was to be my last for 24 league games. Liverpool spent the remainder of the season struggling in the new Premier League before finishing sixth.

"In rare moments of magic for me at Anfield, I scored twice in the European Cup Winners' Cup first-round first-leg victory over Apollon Limassol in September 1992, one a right-foot shot from outside the area in the opening minutes of the game, the second a flying header shortly before half-time. We won that one 6-1.

"Rushie was the first over to congratulate me after that first goal, and we hit it off during my time at the club. But professionally it was all downhill from there. In my last two seasons I did not play a single game for Liverpool, and ended up being loaned out. It was a nightmare.

"The only consolation was I made some good friends. There were some real characters in the dressing-room. There was fun to be had despite the gloom of the situation I found myself in.

"Rob Jones, the full-back, was called Trigger after the character in Only Fools and Horses; Mark Wright was known as Dot, because, like Dot Cotton in *EastEnders*, he had a reputation for complaining all the time; Torben Piechnik got Picnic for obvious reasons (he became known as Souness' worst-ever signing, taking that mantle from me).

"Michael Thomas was dubbed Lester after Lester Piggot as he had a slight lisp, which was not the kindest of nicknames, but I'd heard worse – Paul Allen at Spurs got Ollie because everyone said he looked like Stan Laurel from *Laurel and Hardy* while Pat van den Hauwe, as everyone knows, was simply known as Psycho.

"The Christmas parties at Anfield, usually organised by Jan Molby, were always good fun. I would go dressed as Elvis, as I do for every fancy-dress party. As a newcomer you were expected to stand up on a stool in front of all the players and sing a song.

"My party piece was the old Disney song *Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah* but you would only ever get part of the way through your rendition before the rest of the lads would bombard you with drinks or food. Then we would hold an awards ceremony, one of the prizes being for who had done the most daft things during the season – an award usually claimed by Stevie Nicol.

"Stevie was a great bloke and a big character. My favourite Nico story – at least one that can go into print – is when he forgot his suit trousers for an away game against Southampton.

"For some reason, known only to him, he had replaced his suit 'troosers' with his wife's riding jodhpurs by mistake.

"When he tried them on in the room, obviously I did not want to give away how funny they looked. I had to pretend they were fine, knowing the reaction he would get from the lads. When he put them on with a suit jacket and tie and went downstairs to the team bus, everybody just fell about laughing.

"When I first signed, they were already on tour in Scandinavia and












16 Sept 1992: Paul fires in a beauty against Apollon Limassol in the Cup Winners' Cup then dives to head home a second half-an-hour later

I arrived late to find I was sharing a room with Stevie. All the lads kept asking at dinner: 'Is that right you're sharing with Nico?' or 'Are you with Bumper?' They would all smile when I said yes, but not say why. I knew it was a wind-up. He had some interesting habits, and a very unusual way of warming up for games.

"Bruce Grobbelaar was another character who had some great stories to tell. His favourite involved 'how to react when faced with an alligator'; he reckoned you could cheat death if you knew what you were doing. There never seemed to be a complete explanation, beyond 'looking into their eyes'.

"When Souness clashed with me in front of all the players, I knew the writing was on the wall. It was around 1993, about a year into my time at the club, and it was already becoming clear that I was not in his plans.

"Liverpool had been struggling; it was a difficult time at the club. Speculation was rife that Souness was about to leave, and there was a newspaper story which referred to the time left on his contract.

"I was on the training pitch with all the first-team squad. I was never slow to speak my mind, and I was being particularly petulant.

"After two laps of the Melwood training ground, he stopped the warm-up, swore and suggested that if I wanted to leave the club, I should ask for a transfer and give up any settlement on the remaining time on my contract.

"I asked: 'Are you going to do the same?' It didn't mean anything, it was just a split-second remark borne out of sheer frustration. But I knew there would be consequences from speaking to the boss like that...

"There were some brilliant young players coming through, the so-called 'Spice Boys' – lads like Robbie Fowler, Don Hutchison, Steve McManaman and, of course, Jamie Redknapp. The coaches knew they had a big future and so they would be talking to them and working on their game all the time. With me, they just used to throw me a shirt.

"It was a situation where they had paid big money for me so they had to put me in the reserves, in the shop-window if you like, in case somebody did come in for me. With the salary I was on, they had to give me a game, but I hated every minute of it.

"It did not get much better once Souness went. Roy Evans, who took over as manager, never gave me a look-in. It was pure misery. I played for the reserves at Southport on a regular basis, and there would be a crowd of 500 shouting all kinds of abuse. 'You're **** Stewart! No wonder you didn't make it, what a waste of money!' I was not exactly Mr Popular and, unlike in the big games at Anfield with the buzz from the stands, you could hear every word of criticism at Haig Avenue.

"It was the lowest point of my football career..."

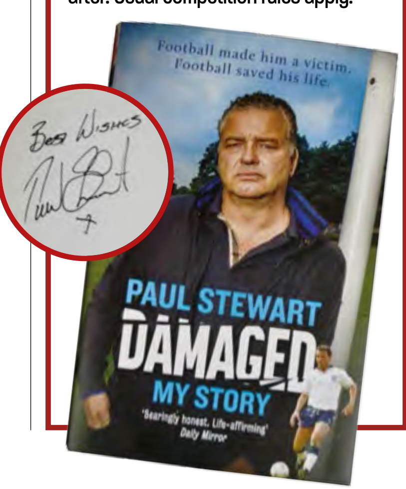
■ **Extracted from Paul Stewart: Damaged, published by Trinity Mirror Sport Media and available from Amazon, sportmediashop.com (RRP £18.99) and also as an ebook.**

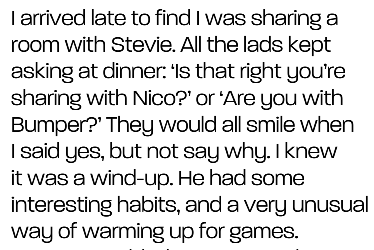
WIN THE BOOK!

We've got **five signed copies** of Paul Stewart: Damaged to give away to five readers. To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question and email it with your contact details to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com with PAUL STEWART in the subject line.

Against which club did Paul score at Anfield on his home debut for LFC? (a) Manchester City (b) Oldham Athletic (c) Sheffield United

The closing date is 29 September 2017 and winners will be notified soon after. Usual competition rules apply.





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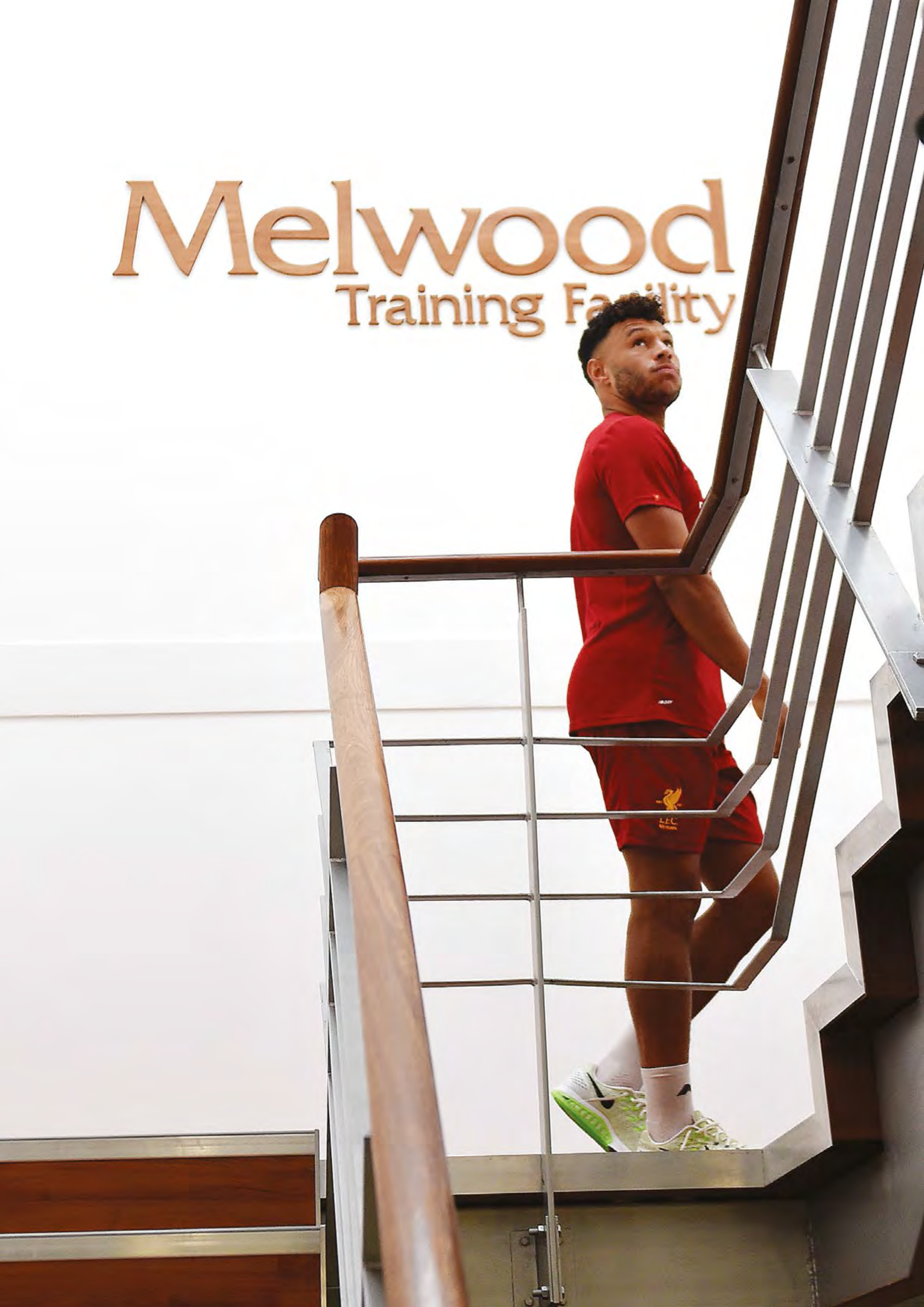
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Melwood
Training

Neil Mellor

Sheer firepower should prevent us from dropping too many points

When you take everything into account, Liverpool Football Club had a pretty good summer transfer window.

Getting Mo Salah in early was a very good piece of business. He's settled in quickly and already looks a very shrewd addition to the team while keeping Philippe Coutinho, when under immense pressure from Barcelona to sell, is another positive.

Andy Robertson has added competition at left-back, Dominic Solanke has started so well that Jürgen Klopp decided to send Divock Origi out on loan and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain will be useful given the additional games we have to play this season.

The one area I still think needs addressing is having a commanding presence to defend set-pieces, but this Liverpool team look so devastating going forward that even if they concede a few goals they may well have the firepower to ensure it doesn't result in dropped points.

One of Liverpool's big strengths is the transition between turning defence into attack and Oxlade-Chamberlain is very good at that. His decision-making can be improved but he is only 24 and is very experienced for a young player.

You've also got to look at the way Jürgen Klopp has turned Sadio Mane into a consistent performer. When he arrived from Southampton there were questions about this, but nobody is questioning Mane now and the hope is that Klopp can bring out the same maturity and consistency from Oxlade-Chamberlain.

He could've stayed at Arsenal or moved to Chelsea, but I think Oxlade-Chamberlain is one of a number of players who has looked at Liverpool and thought that because of the history and because of the European nights, playing Champions League football at Anfield is a big attraction. Being part of an attacking side and working under Klopp is also appealing, but the attraction of playing in the Champions League shouldn't be underestimated.

Naby Keita has also been signed early for 2018/19 and I must admit that I haven't seen a lot of him, but he has clearly done well for Red Bull Salzburg, a side that has come from nowhere in recent years. It looks like good business sense from Liverpool to get him signed ahead of any rivals. But it's too early to predict how well Keita will settle into the Premier League, only that he evidently has huge potential.

More immediately the Reds will face Sevilla, Spartak Moscow and Maribor in the Champions League. I expect Liverpool to progress from that group but then I said the same when the Reds drew Real Madrid, FC Basel and Ludogorets in 2014/15 so it shows you can't take anything for granted.

However, this Liverpool team looks better, stronger and more of an attacking threat than we had last time and I believe Klopp's pressing and counter-attacking style will work really well in Europe.

The difficulty is managing the Premier League and Champions League at the same time, but if key players can stay fit I'm confident Liverpool will do well on both fronts.



IF KEY PLAYERS CAN STAY FIT I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN DO WELL AT HOME AND IN EUROPE

It looks like Nathaniel Clyne will be missing long-term, having been omitted from the Champions League squad, but in his absence both Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joe Gomez have been excellent at right-back.

Trent is 18. He's still very young but has done extremely well and scored a brilliant free-kick against Hoffenheim. As I've said in this magazine before, I really like Gomez and his performance in the 4-0 win against Arsenal was a reminder of how good he can be.

Liverpool hammered the Gunners but there were two moments in the game when, defensively, Gomez was crucial. He made two vital blocks which, had they been goals instead, would have made that game very different.

His positional sense is very good and he has done ever so well to come back from two long-term injuries that ruled him out for 15 months.

Joe has now been appointed as captain of England Under-21s and that also highlights his leadership qualities. Captaining the 21s will help him improve as he will get more game-time at that level, which will aid his development, but with Alexander-Arnold also competing for a place I can see Klopp having a good battle to pick from for right-back.

The key thing is that the manager has two options at right-back while Clyne is out, and if Gomez and Alexander-Arnold keep progressing in the way that they have there are no guarantees that Clyne will immediately win his place back when fit to return.

Follow Neil on Twitter **@NeilMellor33**.



THE

ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS



BALL

8, 15 & 16 DECEMBER, 2017

ALL-INCLUSIVE FESTIVE NIGHTS ONLY AT ANFIELD

We know how to celebrate here at the home of Liverpool FC. And Christmas is no exception.

Enjoy unlimited drinks, a three-course meal, brilliant live entertainment and fun casinos all for just £75 per head.

So whether it's an office get-together with colleagues, or a Christmas night out with friends, look no further than The Ultimate Christmas Ball, hosted exclusively in the expanded Main Stand, Anfield.





0151 264 2222 or
liverpoolfc.com/christmas





T&Cs apply. See website for full details.

The new Anfield Superstore has proved a huge hit with fans – do you know what its original predecessor was called on Walton Breck Road? **Answer on page 98**

Taking you inside the Anfield Superstore and on the brand new Stadium Tour





Anfield Wonderland

Welcome to the all-new, awesome flagship store – proof that Willy Wonka must be a Reds fan!

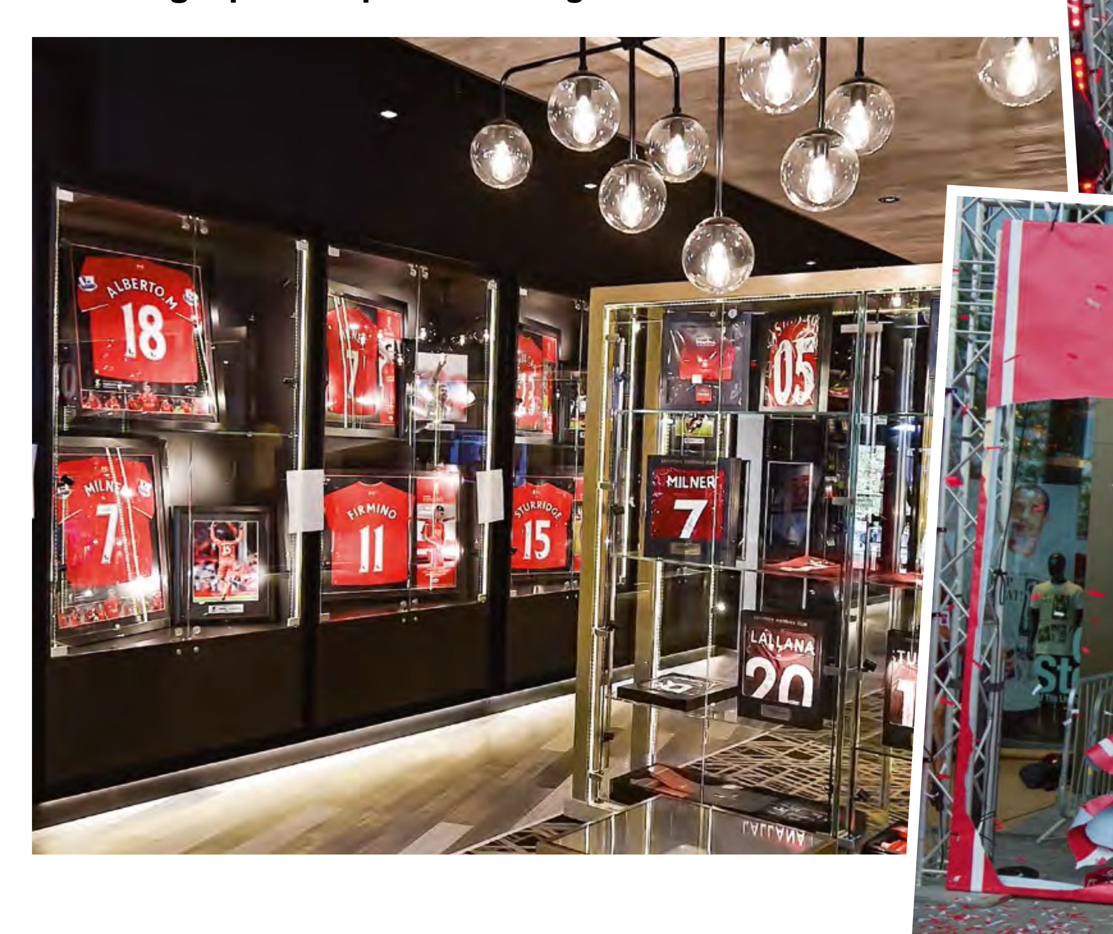
Liverpool FC's new Anfield Superstore has been officially opened by Ian Rush and Robbie Fowler and it's hugely impressive. The Reds legends were joined by hundreds of fans at the long-awaited event hosted by Capital FM duo Graeme Smith and Dylan Evans.

There was free glitter face-painting, entertainment from a football freestyler and club mascot Mighty Red, goody bags, in-store competitions and a signing session with Rushie and Robbie.

Four times the size of the old club store at 19,500sq ft, the new store marks another milestone in the regeneration of Anfield and forms part of Liverpool City Council's plan to rebuild Walton Breck Road and LFC's ongoing commitment to the wider regeneration of the Anfield area.

The development further enhances the Main Stand expansion and takes the club a step closer to offering fans the best in-store experience possible.

The colour scheme and materials used inside the store take inspiration from the architecture of Anfield and incorporate design references from




NEW CLUB STORE
NEW LFC SUPERSTORE ANFIELD
GRAND OPENING
L.F.C.
Liverpool FC


CAPITAL FM
ANFIELD
HERE TO HELP
1959

the original and current Kop as well as the Main Stand.

There's a stunning glass football-boot chandelier and a specially-designed first-floor cafe open on non-matchdays, plus a 'fan activation space' in the centre of the store where supporters can sit on original seats from the old Main Stand in front of a giant video wall. This space will also be used for events such as player signing, membership events, fashion shows and kit launch reveals.

Almost 50 till-points will feature contactless payments and mobile-payment stations to decrease queue waiting times on a matchday.

With capacity to print 20 shirts at a time you won't be sat in the dressing-room style waiting-area for too long, unless perhaps you go for Oxlade-Chamberlain or Alexander-Arnold over Mane or Salah!

There's also a VIP area for personal-shopper experiences (when buying high-end products such signed frames and jewellery) and, for the first time, a New Balance branded in-shop shop, while exclusive LFC product



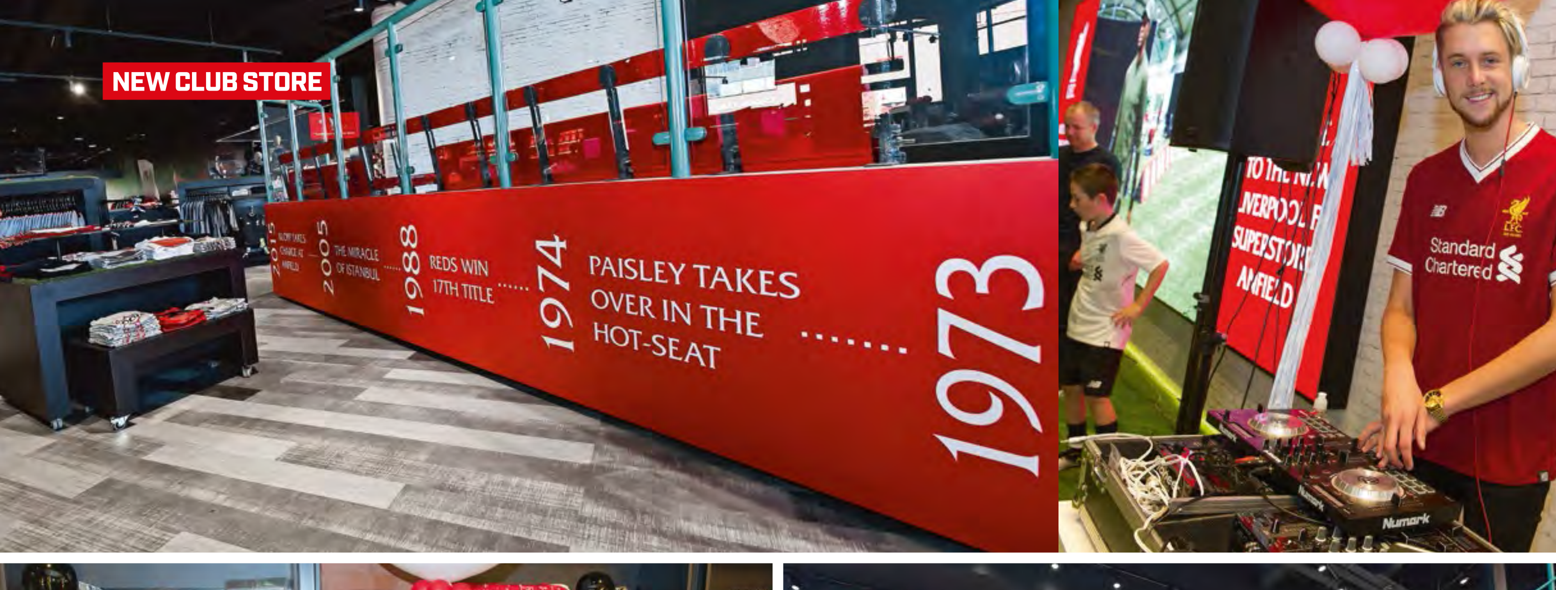












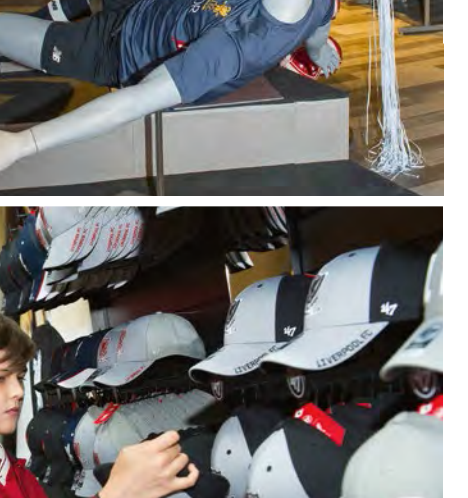












to the Anfield store will be launched throughout the year.

Around 20,000 fans are expected to visit on game-days, keeping the 175-strong matchday staff – including 80 new jobs created in the local community – busy. Scarves are tipped to be a best-seller. Well, you can't sing *You'll Never Walk Alone* properly without one...

As for the team's commemorative 2017/18 kit, it's proved to be the most popular in LFC history with unprecedented demand from supporters due to its retro styling in this special 125 year.

With some items having sold out at club stores, and in order to meet demand and ensure fans receive stock as quickly as possible, a pre-order system has been opened ahead of the stock replenishments that will arrive in-store in October.

For more information please visit **store.liverpoolfc.com/kit**.

YOUR STAD



IUM AWAITS

Anfield has an all-new Stadium Tour and it's like nothing before

Anfield 2017/18.
In a word: awesome.
But even if you're one of those lucky enough to experience a matchday here, it's still only half the story.
Now, on the new LFC Stadium Tour, you can experience the unique past, present and future of Liverpool Football Club and the spine-tingling aura of its home for 125 years. It's an exclusive multimedia journey behind the scenes, back to the most thrilling moments in Anfield history and forward for an insight into the stadium's all-new state-of-the-art facilities.
Indeed it was the Main Stand's spectacular expansion that provided the opportunity to create something totally different to the Club's previous stadium tour and unique to other tours on offer.
The new LFC Stadium Tour has been written by lifelong Reds fans and writers Dave Kirby and Nicky Allt, who spent time at the stadium developing the experience.



The result is a 'free-flowing' tour in which visitors use interactive audio guides to fully immerse themselves in their Anfield surroundings and take the tour at their own pace. Each handset has a built-in image recognition camera: simply point it at imagery around the tour and it triggers videos, pictures and interviews. A team of tour guides is also on-hand to offer guidance and answer questions, while the tour is available in eight languages: French, German, Spanish, Italian, Chinese Mandarin, Arabic, Thai and Indonesian – plus British sign-language.

Among the many, many highlights are the epic views from the highest level of the Main Stand, Level 6. You can use the handset's augmented reality here to sample Anfield's unique matchday atmosphere. Then right down at pitchside you can touch the famous *This Is Anfield* sign.


16
32
L.F.C.



Fans can walk down the new players' tunnel, using the handset to hear the Anfield roar, before sitting in the manager's dugout then exploring the Kop.

Back inside the stadium you'll visit the new home-team dressing-room: point the handset to each player's shirt to trigger more content. In the away-team dressing-room use it to discover which LFC legend reveals the best opposition he's faced. Not forgetting the new press room where you can practise your interview technique and pretend to be your favourite player or Jürgen Klopp himself!

Visitors no longer need to pre-book a time slot – you can turn up on the day to take the tour at your own pace – and don't forget that tickets include a visit to The Liverpool FC Story museum and The Steven Gerrard Collection.

For more, please visit **liverpoolfc.com/tours**.

The big launch...

Most midweek visits to Anfield this season will be on Tuesdays or Wednesdays for UEFA Champions League matches, but when this magazine was invited to the official launch of the New Stadium Tour one Thursday evening in August it was a special experience in itself.

After enjoying our fair share of the food and drinks reception, we're guided to the Upper Main Stand where a video introduction from Reds manager Jürgen Klopp and a montage through the Club's trophy successes give an instant feel than the tour experience has gone up a considerable notch.



The impressive concourses are transformed into timelines of the Club's managers and milestone events on giant pull-down screens (usually hidden away on a matchday) while the tunnel area could not be more different to that of the 'old' Main Stand: the low ceilings and tight corridors are no more. The home team dressing-room is all-new and state-of-the-art but it retains a special close-knit feel as before.

Interactive multimedia guides handed out at various stages of the tour include 360 video clips of Anfield on a matchday, audio clips and junior-themed content – there really is something for everyone. All in all, the incredible interactivity on the tour and sheer amount of new areas to explore make it an essential visit for any Red!



Win tickets for two on the all-new LFC Stadium Tour!

It looks stunning, it's just as awesome inside – and now here's your chance to win a brand new LFC Stadium Tour for two people plus a 2-course lunch in the Boot Room Sports Cafe. Also included is entry into The Liverpool FC Story, the club's interactive museum, including The Steven Gerrard Collection.

To be in with a chance of winning, simply enter online via **www.liverpoolfc.com/competitions**.

The winner will be notified by email. Closing date: Friday 13 October 2017. Full T&Cs apply.





GO FIGURE

LFC plays the numbers game to celebrate 125 – you can bank on it



To commemorate Liverpool Football Club's 125th anniversary, principal club sponsor Standard Chartered has launched a season-long digital campaign celebrating the power of numbers.

The bank is taking fans on a journey to understand the meaning of significant numbers in LFC history, told through a series of films as well as a unique 360º audio matchday experience.

It also features interviews with Jürgen Klopp and Jordan Henderson plus LFC legends like Steven Gerrard, John Barnes, Ian Rush, Robbie Fowler and Luis Garcia.

Billy Hogan, Liverpool FC's chief commercial officer, says: "Standard Chartered have really created something our fans will love and won't have seen before, and we thank the bank for helping us celebrate our 125th birthday in such an exciting and innovative way."

You can find out more at **www.sc.com/lfc125**.

STANDARD CHARTERED CELEBRATES THE POWER OF NUMBERS

Kopped the Spidercam?

The recent Premier League game against Arsenal witnessed an Anfield debut for the Spidercam – the overhead mobile camera that makes watching replays look like something from Playstation.

The camera is suspended above the pitch via four cables attached to each corner of the ground and manoeuvred by an operator to follow the action.

With its height varying from ten to 40 metres above the pitch, its full effect can be seen during set-pieces when the camera zooms in from above. So now the action looks even better from Anfield!





Thursday 12th October 2017
Main Stand Anfield

An evening with Kevin Keegan

Enjoy a drinks reception followed by a 3-course dinner with LFC Legend Kevin Keegan.

Sit back and enjoy as Kevin recalls his most memorable moments at the Club, including his part in winning 2 UEFA Cups, 3 League Titles, a European and an FA Cup as well as his tally of 100 goals.

Tickets from £115pp

To book tickets call 0151 264 2222 or visit
www.liverpoolfc.com/lfcdinners

ANFIELD 2017/18

All you need to know about getting to the ground and making an awesome experience of it



ARRIVING AT THE STADIUM

Make sure you allow enough time for any necessary security checks which may include random searches. Bringing bags to the stadium is actively discouraged. Fans arriving with a small personal bag should expect this to be searched and tagged before entry. Bringing it may delay your entry and in some cases may lead to non-entry to the stadium. Please do not bring large bags or luggage to Anfield as they cannot be brought into the stadium.

On the club's official website there is a comprehensive guide entitled *Visiting Anfield* where fans and visitors can find information on facilities at the stadium and things to do in the city of Liverpool.

Available to download, the guide explains how LFC prides itself on being inclusive and working with all its supporters, recognising that disabled fans may need assistance to fully enjoy the Anfield experience and offering a variety of reasonable adjustments based on individual needs.

Here are a few highlights to help visitors plan their journey to Anfield...

Welcome to Anfield: LFC offers offer an array of accessible services and facilities across the stadium – including a welcoming Fan Support Team which can be easily identified by a prominent information flag. There are also stewards wearing high-visibility jackets on hand around the ground to help you make the most of your matchday experience.

Accessibility: you can download the club's accessibility guide from the official website www.liverpoolfc.com or speak to a member of staff on +44 151 264 2500 for information on accessible toilets, hearing loops, audio headsets and lifts. You can also download

the Premier League *Get in!* App, the official matchday accessibility guide; a one-stop shop for fans with accessibility needs that makes attending home and away matches easier than ever before.

Fan Zones: these are open from four hours before kick-off on a matchday. There is one on Anfield Road where you can find food, drink and live music, and another at Paisley Square which is home to live entertainment, food and soft drinks, retail offerings plus the club's official mascot Mighty Red in person on a matchday!

Food kiosks: street-food kiosks are available on a matchday and located in the Fan Zones. Anfield offers an array of meal deals, burgers, hot dogs and pies in kiosks throughout the ground – or try one of our 'Boot Room Sports Cafe' kiosk's gourmet matchday meals, located Kop-side between the Tour Centre and Ticket Office.

Local pubs: there are many around the area, with The Arkles (just next to Anfield Road) and The Sandon (on Walton Breck Road) welcoming home and away supporters.

Stadium Tours: these are available throughout the year, both on a matchday and on a non-matchday. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/tours.

Retail store: with all the latest kits, LFC fashion and souvenirs, bring home a memento of your trip to Anfield from the Retail Store, located on Walton Breck Road.

Boot Room Sports Cafe: this is open seven days a week, offering freshly prepared food. On a matchday it is available only for matchday hospitality. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/hospitality.

Hillsborough Memorial: the club has worked with the Hillsborough families to create a fitting location and setting within the design of the expanded Main Stand and surrounding public area.

Photo opportunities: there are various points around the stadium for fans to use, both on a matchday and non-matchday.

Ticket Office: open Mon to Sat, for times visit www.liverpoolfc.com/contactus.

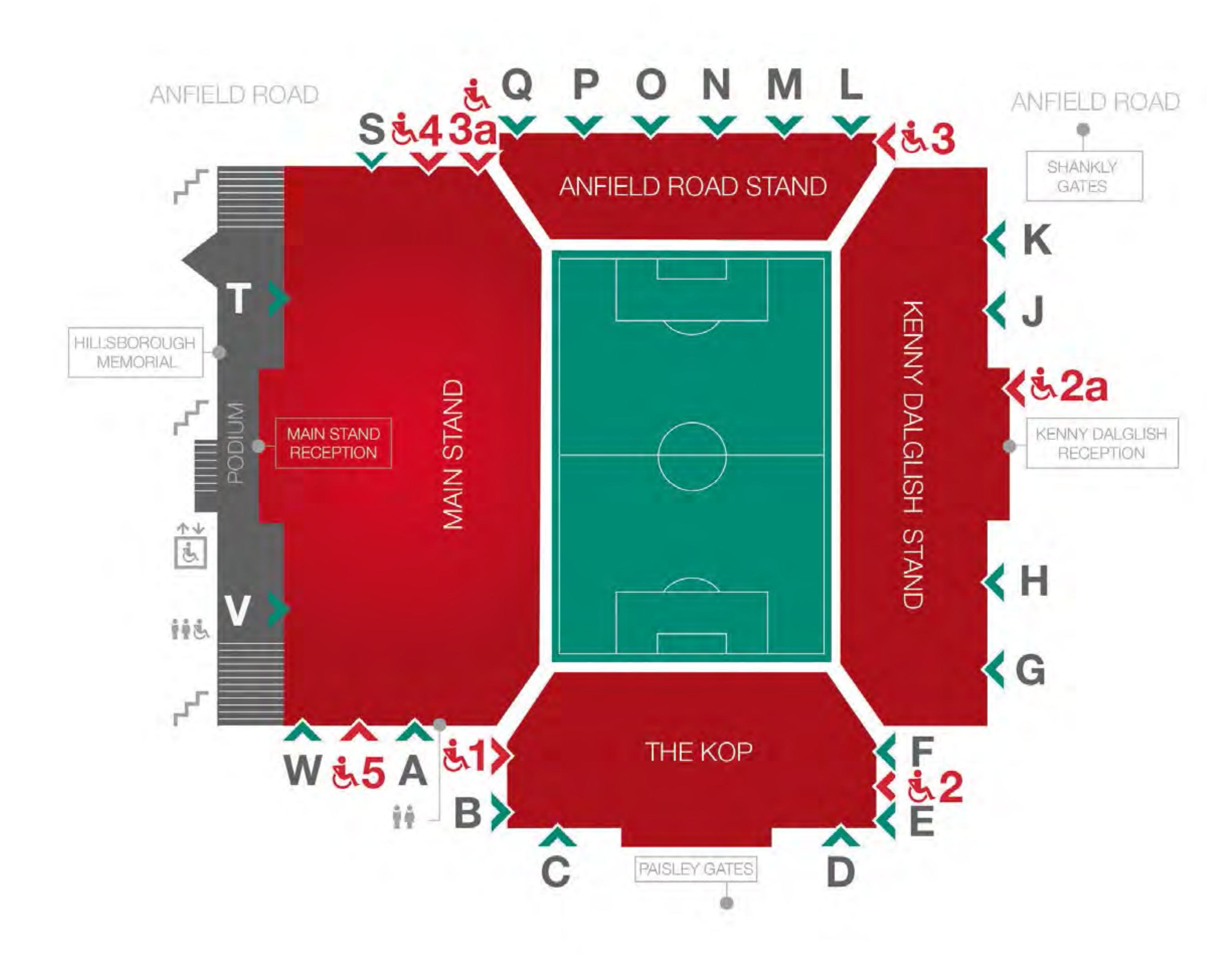
Please note that on home matchdays the Ticket Office opening times may vary depending on the kick-off time.

Toilets: located throughout the stadium on a matchday. Baby-changing and baby-feeding facilities are now available on Level 2 of the Main Stand, and in the toilets near the Boot Room Sports Cafe and The Liverpool FC Story entrances.

Cash point: there are none available in the ground; however, there is a cash point on Walton Breck Road. Supporters can pay via card throughout the stadium with contactless payment also in place at all kiosks.

Wi-fi: available in the concourse area of each stand. Fans will need to connect to 'Fan Wi-Fi' and register for the free service.

Faith Room: a multi-faith prayer room is available at Anfield, accessible from the Main Stand public realm and located next to the hospitality ticket collection booth. This is open five hours before and 30 minutes after a match.



REDS IN THE HOOD!

Liverpool FC players take part in initiatives in local community for young and old alike

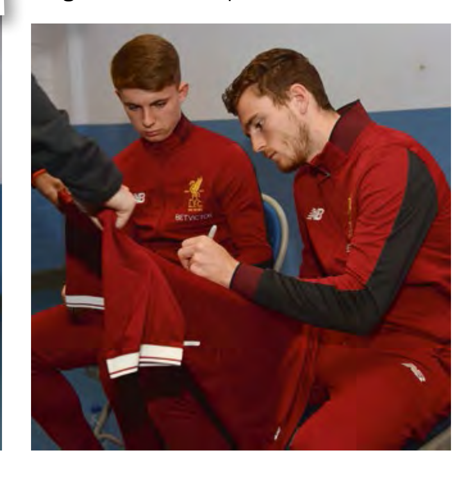
The club's Red Neighbours programme supports local residents and schools in the Anfield community, focusing on four key areas: support for the elderly community; encouraging a physically active community; creating memorable experiences for young people; and food poverty and education.

To this end LFC first-teamers have been out and about recently, with Alberto Moreno, Dominic Solanke, Ben Woodburn and Andy Robertson joining fans at Anfield Sports & Community Centre in a Q&A session; while goalie Simon Mignolet was with 70 pensioners at Anfield for the season's first Monday Club that meets monthly to help with social isolation.

Ex-player Neil Mellor has also been getting involved. The current LFCTV pundit and club magazine columnist paid his own visit to









Red Neighbours



the ASCC to join participants in a game of Walking Football. This project plus Walking Netball offer free sessions aimed at people over the age of 50, encourage physical activity in a fun and social setting. The Walking Football sessions are at the ASCC every Friday between 11am and 1pm.

Meanwhile Red Neighbours continues its support of Fans Supporting Foodbanks, with collections at every Premier League game at Anfield.

Last season thanks to our fans over 11,000 meals were provided for families in North Liverpool. Supporters can drop off any non-perishable food donations at the foodbank collection points located on Anfield Road next to the Family Park (open 1pm till kick-off) and inside the new Anfield Superstore (9am to 5.30pm).

Priority items include: UHT Milk; long-life juice or cordial; jar pasta/curry sauce; tinned meat; tinned vegetables; instant mash; rice-pudding/custard; jam; toiletries; cup-a-soup/noodles; washing tablets.

FOOTBALL FUN

Hundreds enjoy LFC Foundation's Family Fun Day at ASCC



LFC Foundation, the club's official charity, welcomed more than 600 people from the local community to its recent Family Fun Day, to enjoy a range of activities including football, food and drink, entertainment, ultraviolet games, multi-sports, zorb football and more.

Held at the Foundation's home at Anfield Sports & Community Centre, the event was also attended by chief executive officer Peter Moore, Reds legend Robbie Fowler and mascot Mighty Red who joined in the fun amid the sunshine. KitAid, a charity which distributes recycled and donated football kit to underprivileged people in Africa, was also onsite to collect old and unwanted items from guests.

Andrea Cooper, head of Liverpool FC Foundation said: "We were delighted with the turnout at our Family Fun Day – it gave us the opportunity to engage with our local community as well as showcase the programmes that we deliver across the city seven days a week."

Elsewhere LFC Foundation launched its Park Football initiative in Stanley Park and Albert Dock, with hundreds of young people taking part in the free 'pop-up' football sessions over the school holidays. Over the summer the Foundation was also busy in the community with its ever-popular Holiday Camps, enabling children and young people to develop their football skills alongside a range of other sports.





THE LFC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE CREATE LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE AND BEYOND. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION

WHAT'S IN



Ladies Charcoal Liverbird Tee (A9014) **£15**

Ladies Charcoal Zip Through (A9026) **£35**

As worn by LFC Ladies star Laura Coombs!

STORE

AUTUMN 2017 COLLECTION

Fashion for men, ladies and kids – just a selection from the new LFC range



Boys Black Tracksuit (A9073) **£40**

Boys Charcoal Marl Crest Tee (A9033) **£12**

Girls Diamante Crest Tee (A9061) **£15**

Mens Black YNWA Tee (A8935) **£18**

Girls Grey Lurex Tipping Jogger (A9308) **£20**

Mens Red Conninsby Polo Shirt (A8999) **£22**

Shop for all your LFC essentials in all Official Club Stores and the Official Online Store at store.liverpoolfc.com. And for more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram!



It's like something out of *Grand Designs*, and it is in fact a corner of the new Anfield Superstore illuminated at night

QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p7: Liverpool Football Club was founded in 1892...nineteen years before the completion of the Royal Liver Building (1911), with its famous twin birds, at the city's Pier Head; **FOOTBALL p23:** Mo scored three goals in August - one at Watford in the opening Premier League fixture, one against Hoffenheim in the UCL play-off second leg at Anfield, and one at home to Arsenal again in the Premier League; **CLUB p77:** before the Anfield Superstore there was the 'Souvenir Shop' outside the ground on Walton Breck Road with a rather modest range of official LFC merchandise!


VISARO


new balance.


ALWAYS
IN BETA


DICTATE
THE PLAY

FURON


DEVASTATE
THE DEFENCE
FURON





















































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